

# Dangerous goods carried by transport service operators or for direct reward

The Land Transport Rule: Dangerous Goods 2005 (and its amendments) detail the legal requirements for transporting dangerous goods safely.

The Rule applies to all people who transport dangerous goods, but how the Rule applies will depend on:

- the type of dangerous goods being transported
- the quantity of dangerous goods being transported
- the purpose for which the dangerous goods are being transported.

This factsheet applies to people who carry dangerous goods as a licensed transport service operator or for direct reward:

- If you transport dangerous goods for domestic or recreational purposes, read Factsheet 69 *Dangerous goods transported for domestic or recreational purposes*.
- If you're dangerous goods as tools-of trade, for agricultural use or commercial purposes (but not for hire or direct reward), read Factsheet 68 *Dangerous goods transported as tools-of trade, for agricultural use or commercial purposes*.

These factsheets provide an overview only. If your business involves transporting dangerous goods, you must also refer to the Rule. The Rule is available for download from the Transport Agency website ([www.nzta.govt.nz/dangerous-goods](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/dangerous-goods)). Printed copies of the Rule are available from selected bookshops that sell legislation and some libraries.

## What are dangerous goods?

Dangerous goods for transport on land include substances and articles that have explosive, flammable, toxic, infectious, corrosive or environmentally hazardous properties, and containers that have held dangerous goods. All classes of dangerous goods are described in table A of the Rule, which is based on classifications in the United Nations (UN) Recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods – model regulations.

## What are my responsibilities?

Everyone involved in transporting dangerous goods has to comply with the Rule. Responsibilities are allocated according to tasks and you're responsible for all the tasks you do.

**Consignors** (manufacturers, importers or distributors) are responsible for:

- packaging, labelling and marking dangerous goods
- providing dangerous goods documents
- providing emergency response information.

**Loaders** are responsible for:

- checking of packaging, labelling and marking for obvious defects
- preparing a load plan, or a container or vehicle packing certificate
- segregating incompatible dangerous goods
- complying with special loading instructions on the dangerous goods documents
- placarding the vehicle or freight container
- securing the load in the vehicle or freight container
- undergoing training appropriate for the nature, quantity and use of goods they handle.

Drivers or operators of road vehicles are responsible for:

- placarding the vehicle
- carrying the required dangerous goods documents in the document holder
- making the documents available to an enforcement officer or emergency services personnel
- updating the schedule of quantities or load plan
- load security
- complying with parking restrictions
- stopping at railway crossings
- carrying emergency response information
- undergoing training specific to the goods they carry
- having a current and valid dangerous goods endorsement on their driver licence.

**Drivers or operators of rail vehicles** are responsible for:

- carrying the required dangerous goods documents in the rail vehicle
- making the documents available to an enforcement officer or emergency services personnel
- undergoing training specific to the nature, quantity and use of the dangerous goods they transport.

**Employers** are responsible for:

- ensuring their employees comply with the requirements of the Rule.

**Everyone involved** is responsible for:

- safely transporting dangerous goods and complying with the Rule
- discontinuing transport if the packaging is leaking

- handing the dangerous goods documents to the next person responsible for transporting or handling the goods.

Anyone involved in transporting dangerous goods can ask that a package be opened to see if it contains dangerous goods, or refuse to handle or transport the package.

## Packaging and identification

If you're a consignor, you must make sure the packaging is fit for its purpose, doesn't contaminate or react with the goods and is strong enough to hold the goods without leaking (under normal transport and handling conditions). Section 3 of the Rule refers to packaging performance standards or the requirements of other New Zealand authorities. You must also comply with the UN packing instructions, which include details of types and sizes of packaging suitable for each dangerous goods product.

You must also make sure dangerous goods are marked and labelled to identify the hazard. This is explained in section 4 of the Rule. The Rule includes requirements for environmentally hazardous substance marks and orientation arrows on some packages of dangerous goods.

## Dangerous goods documents

Consignors must supply a dangerous goods declaration. Sometimes, other dangerous goods documents are also required. Section 5 of the Rule specifies the documentation requirements, including when each document is needed. Forms that comply with the Rule are available from Standards New Zealand and Responsible Care New Zealand (see below for contact details), but you can design your own forms and combine different dangerous goods documents on one page. Dangerous goods declarations for sea or air transport are acceptable for land transport as well, as long as they comply with the Rule.

Standards New Zealand Private Bag 2439 Wellington 6140 Phone 0800 782 632 +64 4 498 5990 enquiries@standards.co.nz www.standards.co.nz	Responsible Care New Zealand PO Box 5557 Wellington 6145 Phone +64 4 499 4311 info@responsiblecarenz.com www.responsiblecarenz.com
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## Segregation

Loaders must comply with the requirements in section 6 of the Rule for the segregation of incompatible dangerous goods. This section also specifies conditions for using segregation devices, and when segregation isn't required (eg **dangerous goods in limited quantities, consumer commodities** or **small packages** transported within the limits specified for these goods in section 2).

## Placarding

Loaders and drivers must placard vehicles and freight containers. If you're a loader or driver, you must display placards whenever the load is over 50 kilograms or 50 litres. The only exception to this is if the load is **dangerous goods in exempted quantities** or **exempted packages of radioactive material**, transported in accordance with clause 2.9 of the Rule.

On the other hand, for some classes of dangerous goods, you have to display placards no matter what quantity you're carrying.

Section 7 of the Rule specifies the requirements for placarding vehicles, tank wagons, freight containers and bulk containers.

## Examples of dangerous goods placards:



## Transport procedures

Consignors, loaders and drivers must comply with transport procedures. These include securing the load, complying with parking restrictions and supplying or carrying emergency response information. Transport procedures are set out in section 8 of the Rule.

## Training

Everyone involved in dangerous goods transport must undergo training appropriate to the nature, quantity and use of the goods they handle. Section 9 of the Rule explains what training is required, including when you need a D endorsement on your driver licence. If you need a D endorsement but don't have one, you must not drive a vehicle transporting dangerous goods unless you are under the direct supervision of a passenger who has a current and valid D endorsement.

## Low danger or small quantities of goods

- **Dangerous goods in limited quantities** and **consumer commodities** are dangerous goods of low or medium danger in small primary containers, and packaged for transport in strong outer packagings. They can be transported with some relaxation of controls. The requirements for this category of dangerous goods are set out in clause 2.3 of the Rule.
- **Small packages of dangerous goods in limited quantities** or **consumer commodities** may be transported without a dangerous goods declaration, placards on the vehicle or drivers having a dangerous goods endorsement on their driver licence, as long as the total quantity doesn't exceed 50 kilograms. Please note that many dangerous goods are not allowed to be transported as **small packages**.
- Some explosives can also be transported under the **small packages** provisions. Refer to clauses 2.4 and 2.5 of the Rule for requirements for **small packages**.
- **Dangerous goods in exempted quantities** are very small quantities of low-danger products, eg 30 millilitres of perfume. When prepared for transport in accordance with subclause 2.9(1), up to 1000 packages can be carried without a dangerous goods declaration, segregation, placards or a driver licence endorsement.
- **Exempted packages of radioactive material** are packages that have a minimal radioactive content, such as empty packagings or radioactive material in instruments and manufactured articles. When transported in accordance with subclause 2.9(2), a dangerous goods declaration, segregation, placards or a driver licence endorsement is not required.

## Technical information for compliance with the Rule

Not everyone involved in dangerous goods transport will need technical information, but if you're a manufacturer, importer or distributor of dangerous goods, you will have to refer to one of the documents incorporated in the Rule to meet your responsibilities. New Zealand Standard 5433:2012 Transport of dangerous goods on land provides information on:

- classification of dangerous goods for transport
- maximum inner package sizes for **dangerous goods in limited quantities** and **dangerous goods in excepted quantities**
- packing instructions
- specifications for hazard warning labels and special marks
- performance standards for segregation devices
- the list of **UN numbers** and **proper shipping names** for goods classified as dangerous for transport, and the list of special provisions.

The table below is a guide to the provisions of the Rule that apply to you, according to the nature and quantity of the goods.

Dangerous goods transported in a licensed transport service or for direct reward whether or not in a licensed transport service. (Note: This includes courier services.)							
Nature and quantity	Packaging	Labelling and marking	Documents	Segregate	Placards	Transport procedures	Training
DGLQ <sup>1</sup> and Con Coms <sup>2</sup> (2.3)	3.2(2)	2.3(1)(f), 2.3(1)(g), 2.3(2)(a)	2.3(1)(h), 2.3(1)(i), 5.3(2)	2.3(1)(j), 2.3(2)(b), 2.3(2)(c)	section 7	section 8	section 9
Small packages <sup>3</sup> (2.4 and 2.5)	2.4(1)(b)	2.4(1)(c), 4.2(4)(b)	not required - up to 50kg 2.4(2)(a)	2.4(1)(d), 2.4(1)(e), 2.4(2)(b), 2.4(2)(c)	not required - up to 50kg 2.4(2)(d)	section 8	GSR <sup>4</sup> 9.1 <sup>5</sup> (up to 50kg)
Excepted quantities <sup>6</sup> and excepted packages <sup>7</sup> (2.9)	2.9(1)(d), 2.9(2)(b), 3.2(6), 3.2(7)	2.9(1)(e), 2.9(2)(c), 2.9(2)(d), 4.2(4)(e)	2.9(1)(f), 2.9(2)(e), 5.3(1)(e)	2.9(1)(g), 6.2(e)	not required <sup>8</sup> 2.9(1), 2.9(2)	section 8	GSR <sup>4</sup> 9.1 <sup>9</sup>
All other dangerous goods	section 3	section 4	section 5	section 6	section 7	section 8	section 9

<sup>1</sup> DGLQ - Dangerous goods in limited quantities. These are dangerous goods of low to moderate danger, packaged in small quantities as listed in schedule 2 and complying with requirements in clause 2.3.

<sup>2</sup> Con Coms - Consumer commodities. These are DGLQ packaged for retail sale for personal care, recreational or domestic use.

<sup>3</sup> Small packages are DGLQ and Con Coms or explosives specified in clause 2.5, up to a total of 50 litres or 50 kilograms.

<sup>4</sup> GSR - General safety requirements set out at the beginning of each section of the Rule.

<sup>5</sup> A D endorsement is not required for up to 50 litres or 50 kilograms of small packages (paragraph 2.4(2)(e)).

<sup>6</sup> Dangerous goods in excepted quantities are very small quantities of low risk dangerous goods as listed in schedule 4 (eg 30 millilitres of perfume) and transported in accordance with subclause 2.9(1).

<sup>7</sup> Excepted packages of radioactive material are packages that have a minimal radioactive content, such as empty packagings or radioactive material in instruments and manufactured articles, transported in accordance with subclause 2.9(2).

<sup>8</sup> Placards are not required for up to 1000 packages of dangerous goods in excepted quantities (subclause 2.9(1)) or for any quantity of excepted packages of radioactive material (subclause 2.9(2)).

<sup>9</sup> A D endorsement is not required for up to 1000 packages of dangerous goods in excepted quantities (subclause 2.9(1)) or for any quantity of excepted packages of radioactive material (subclause 2.9(2)).

## Where can I find out more?

- Refer to Land Transport Rule: Dangerous Goods 2005 (including amendments).
- For information about NZS 5433:2012, SAA/SNZ HB76:2010 Dangerous goods - initial emergency response guide, or for dangerous goods declaration forms, contact Standards New Zealand (0800 782 632) or Responsible Care New Zealand (04 499 4311).
- For information about the New Zealand Qualifications Authority registered unit standard (16718) for transporting dangerous goods, contact Tranzqual ITO (0800 478 257, office@tranzqual.org.nz).
- To find a D endorsement course provider, check our website at [www.nzta.govt.nz/licence/getting/course-providers/index.html](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/licence/getting/course-providers/index.html).
- Read the UN Recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods - model regulations on the UNECE website.
- For detailed description of the definitions used in this factsheet, refer to the Rule ([www.nzta.govt.nz/dangerous-goods](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/dangerous-goods)).

The information in this factsheet is a general guide only. It is not the source of the law and should not be used in place of authoritative legal documents. Some factsheets are updated frequently and print versions can quickly become out of date. If the currency of the information you are reading is important, check the factsheet index on our website ([www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets)) or call us on 0800 699 000.

### Contact details

- Call our contact centre: 0800 699 000.
- Visit our website: [www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz).
- Email us: [info@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:info@nzta.govt.nz).
- Write to us: NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442.