



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety**

## Dangerous Goods Safety Guide

# Road transport of dangerous goods in receptacles of 500 L or kg or less

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## Introduction

When dangerous goods are transported by road in receptacles (e.g. packages, cylinders) with a capacity of 500 litres or less or net mass of 500 kilograms or less (i.e.  $\leq 500$  L or kg), certain duties and requirements apply under the Dangerous Goods Safety (Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007 and *Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail* (ADG) to ensure the goods are transported safely.

This Guide assists those transporting packaged dangerous goods on Western Australian roads to comply with the relevant requirements.

It does not apply to transport:

- of explosives and infectious or radioactive substances
- on roads excluded from public access
- where the aggregate quantity of the dangerous goods in the load is less than 25% of the placard load limit, and the dangerous goods are being transported by someone who is not in the dangerous goods transport business.
- dangerous goods packed in limited quantities. Please see [Consigning and transporting dangerous goods packed in limited quantities: Guidance for users](#).

*Note: If your receptacle has a capacity or net volume or mass greater than 500 L or kg, such as road tank vehicles, intermediate bulk containers (IBCs), portable tanks, isotainers and some multi-element gas containers (MEGCs), refer to the Department's [Road transport of dangerous goods in receptacles of more than 500 L or kg: Guide](#).*

## Duties

Anyone involved in dangerous goods transport tasks has a duty of care to ensure that the goods are transported in a safe manner. In addition to the vehicle requirements, everyone involved in the transport operation must be sufficiently trained and competent to undertake their tasks safely.

Contracting or subcontracting tasks related to the transport of dangerous goods does not relieve consignors and prime contractors of their responsibility to ensure that the dangerous goods are transported safely and in accordance with the legislative requirements. If you are contracting out work relating to the transport of dangerous goods, you need to ensure that:

- contractors meet the requirements of the legislation
- all persons employed by contractors are sufficiently trained and competent to undertake their tasks safely.

All responsible parties involved in the transport of dangerous goods must comply with procedures for breakdowns, general precautions and recommended routes for transport of dangerous goods in accordance with Part 13 of the ADG.

Incidents involving dangerous goods transport need to be reported to the Department.

*Note: For further information, refer to [Reporting incidents involving dangerous goods](#) on the Department's website.*

# Requirements

## Overview of requirements

The requirements that apply for road transport depend on whether the amount of dangerous goods constitutes a placard load or not. For receptacles not exceeding 500 L or kg, the dangerous goods will comprise a placard load if:

- the aggregate quantity of all dangerous goods in the transport unit is 250 L or kg or more and there is any quantity of any of:
  - Division 2.1 (except aerosols)
  - Division 2.3
  - Packing Group I of any Class or Division,

or

- the aggregate quantity of dangerous goods is 1000 L or kg or more (e.g. two or more 500 kg packages, five or more 200 L drums), unless the load is:
  - limited quantities as defined in the ADG
  - a fumigated transport unit (UN 3359).

*Note: A guide to help transporters confirm key vehicle requirements before starting their dangerous goods transport journey is available in the [Dangerous Goods Road transport decoder app](#).*

## Less than a placard load

When transporting less than a placard load, the:

- vehicle must be roadworthy and:
  - suitable for transport of the goods
  - free of defects that may create a risk
  - clean
- equipment on the vehicle used in loading or unloading dangerous goods must be:
  - suitable for the purpose
  - free of defects likely to increase risk in loading or unloading
- transport documentation must be carried, except where the aggregate quantity of the dangerous goods in the load is less than 25% of the placard load, and the dangerous goods are not being transported in the course of a business of transporting goods by road.

*Note: For further information, refer to the Department's Dangerous goods transport documents: Guide.*

- dangerous goods are to be stowed and restrained securely on the vehicle
- packagings and overpacks are to be appropriately marked.
- segregation of Divisions 2.3 and 6.1 and Class 8 dangerous goods is required in accordance with the ADG if these goods are transported with food or food packaging.

- driver must be aware of the following responsibilities in an emergency:
  - notify police or fire brigade as soon as possible
  - notify prime contractor as soon as possible
  - provide reasonable assistance to emergency services
  - carry out emergency procedures recommended in the emergency information
  - carry out procedures as per the emergency plan
  - if there is an escape of flammable dangerous goods, prevent other vehicles, other dangerous goods and any source of ignition from coming within 15 m of the driver's vehicle, or a greater distance if specified in the appropriate emergency information
  - warn any person in the vicinity who may be at risk
  - prevent or minimise the escape of the dangerous goods into drains, sewers or natural watercourses.

## Placard load

In addition to the requirements for non-placard loads, placard loads must meet additional requirements, as listed below.

### Vehicles

- Vehicles used to transport placard loads of dangerous goods must have insurance cover of at least \$5,000,000 per event covering:
  - property damage, personal injury and other damage arising out of any fire, explosion, leakage or spillage of dangerous goods in, on or from the vehicle or a container transported on the vehicle
  - costs incurred by or on behalf of a government authority in a clean-up operation.

## Documentation

### Transport and emergency procedures

#### Transport documentation and emergency information

- The latest edition of:
  - emergency procedure guides covering the dangerous goods being transported and vehicle fire, or
  - National Transport Commission's [Australian and New Zealand emergency response guide book](#)

must be carried in the emergency holder in a prominent position in the driver's compartment – preferably on the inside of the driver's door.

- Transport documentation for all dangerous goods loaded on the vehicle must be carried in the emergency information holder.

*Note: Any vehicle carrying a placard load of dangerous goods must be fitted with an emergency information holder marked with the words "Emergency procedure guides" or "Emergency information" in red letters at least 10 mm high on a white background. The holder must be secured on the inside of a door of the cabin in a conspicuous position. If this is not possible, it may be positioned adjacent to the door.*

## Emergency responders

A prime contractor transporting a placard load of dangerous goods in Western Australia must either:

- be an approved emergency responder, or
- have a contract with an approved emergency responder.

*Note: The role of an emergency responder is to control the clean-up response that may result from an incident involving a road vehicle transporting the goods. For further information, refer to the Department's [Approval of responders to dangerous goods emergencies: Guide](#) and [Approved emergency responders list: Information sheet](#).*

## Transport emergency response plan

The prime contractor is responsible for ensuring a transport emergency response plan is available for the transport of placard loads of dangerous goods.

*Note: For further information, refer to the Department's [Documenting a transport emergency response plan for dangerous goods: template](#).*

## Personal protective equipment (PPE) and other safety equipment

There are minimum requirements to be met for the provision and location of PPE and other safety equipment on vehicles transporting placard loads of dangerous goods.

*Note: For further information, refer to the Department's [Safety equipment for road vehicles transporting dangerous goods: Guide](#).*

## Placarding

- If only one class or division of dangerous goods is transported, the vehicle must be placarded with the appropriate class or division label, and, if applicable, a subsidiary hazard label or labels.
- If more than one class or division of dangerous goods is being transported, the vehicle is required to be placarded with either or both of the following:
  - mixed class labels
  - class or division labels for each class or division of dangerous goods and, if necessary, subsidiary hazard labels unless a class or division label already indicates the subsidiary hazard.
- The size of class labels is 250 mm x 250 mm.

Class or division labels are to be located on the vehicle as follows:

- for rigid vehicles and a semi-trailer attached to a prime mover, place labels at the front and rear of vehicle
- for a combination road vehicle (road-trains and B-doubles), place labels at the front and rear of the combination, and on each side of each vehicle that forms part of the combination and has a placard load on it.

## Segregation

- Incompatible dangerous goods must be segregated in accordance with Part 9 of the ADG.

## Dangerous Goods Road Transport Decoder App

The [Dangerous Goods Road Transport Decoder App](#) gives drivers and transport companies access to dangerous goods transport information from computers, smartphones and tablets.