

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Automotive service and repair industry – Dangerous goods (including flammable and combustible liquids)

The transportation, storage and handling of dangerous goods, including flammable and combustible liquids, can involve high risks. If these substances are mishandled, injury and property damage risks are increased. Those at risk include drivers, depot workers, station attendants and members of the public.

Dangerous goods are defined in the Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) Code according to the type of risk. This risk depends on the properties of the substance.

Classes of substances include:

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| Class 1 | Explosives |
| Class 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 | Gases |
| Class 3 | Flammable liquids |
| Class 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 | Flammable solids and solids which give off flammable gases |
| Class 5.1 | Oxidising agents |
| Class 5.2 | Organic Peroxides |
| Class 6 | Toxic and infectious substances |
| Class 7 | Radioactive substances |
| Class 8 | Corrosives (including acids) |
| Class 9 | Miscellaneous substances |

Hazards associated with handling and storage of dangerous goods include:

- radiated heat
- fire
- explosions
- chemical burns

- asphyxiation
- inhalation or skin absorption of toxic substances
- environmental harm.

To reduce injury and damage risks, transporting of dangerous goods is regulated by the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG Code). It specifies that :

- goods must be labelled and warning signs displayed
- drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods in bulk must be licensed
- dangerous goods incompatible with other products such as foodstuff and other classes of dangerous goods must be stored separately.

A driver working with dangerous goods will require a dangerous goods licence issued through Queensland Transport.

Before accepting a consignment, drivers should receive written information from the supplier/consignee detailing:

- the identity and quantity of the substance to be transported
- emergency response measures to be used in the event of an accident (emergency information is required for all placard loads).

Employers are also responsible for ensuring drivers are qualified to transport dangerous goods.

When filling tanks with flammable liquids

- Park the vehicle (tank containers, tank vehicles etc.) and secure them against rolling away.
- Ensure tank containers are safe from collision and/or unintentional movement.
- Switch off the vehicle engine, unless it is required to operate pumps or other devices, for loading or unloading the vehicle
- Ensure that the filling and emptying pipes not located permanently on the tank are empty after filling and during transport.
- Remove any contamination or hazardous residues of the contents left on the loaded tanks before transport.

For further information on health and safety issues call 1300 369 915 or visit www.deir.qld.gov.au.

For further information on dangerous goods call (07) 3247 8444 or visit Emergency Services website www.emergency.qld.gov.au/chem.

For further information on transport and licensing requirements call 13 23 80 or visit Queensland Transport's website www.transport.qld.gov.au.

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