

NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES

Operations Bulletin 2008/03

Changes to Australian Dangerous Goods Code



The *Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail*, known as the *Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG Code)* is the basis of uniform dangerous goods transport legislation across Australia.

The ADG Code has recently been updated from the 6th edition (ADG6) to the 7th edition (ADG7) which is based on the *United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods Model Regulations 14*.

ADG7 is expected to come into force in NSW in the later part of 2008 with a 12 month transition period delaying full compliance until the end of 2009. During the transition period, dangerous goods sites and transport vehicles may comply with either ADG6 or ADG7.

Key changes in ADG7 that will affect firefighters are:

- [Placarding trigger points](#)
- [Hazchem Emergency Action Codes](#)
- [Class/Division terminology](#)
- [New labels](#) and [Altered labels](#)
- [Infectious substances classification](#)

Placarding trigger points

The notable change to placarding trigger points is that a vehicle may carry up to 2 x 499 kilogram or litre [kg(L)] receptacles of dangerous goods and only dangerous goods diamonds are required to be displayed. Emergency Information Panels (EIPs) are only required if the total load is greater than 1000 kg(L) or if the individual receptacle has the capacity to hold 500 kg(L) or more.

Packaging Group 1 of ≥ 250 litres must display dangerous goods diamonds.

Packaging Groups 2 or 3 of ≥ 1000 litres must display dangerous goods diamonds.

Australian Dangerous Goods Code 7th Edition (based on Table 5.3)

Vehicle placarding is required if the load includes:

- Any dangerous good in an immediate receptacle of individual capacity > 500 kg(L)
- > 1000 kg(L) aggregate Dangerous Goods
- > 250 kg(L) aggregate Dangerous Goods where the load includes any quantity of:
 - Class 2.1 (other than aerosols)
 - Class 2.3
 - Packing Group 1 of any class
- Any quantity of Division 6.2 Category A
- > 10 kg(L) of Division 6.2 other than Category A

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NOTE

No EIP is required if dangerous goods are transported within a 50 km radius of the point of entry to the country.

Hazchem Emergency Action Codes

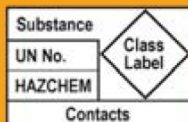
The Hazchem Emergency Action Code provides emergency responders with instructions for dealing with incidents involving dangerous goods. ADG7 has changes to both the terminology and actions.

The revised version of the Hazchem code includes the following changes:

- Changed terminology - 'Fully Encapsulated Gas Tight Suit' (FE Suit) to 'Liquid Tight Chemical Protective Suit' (LTS). **Same suit, different name!**
- Fire Kit in lieu of structural FF ensemble (turnout gear)
- The introduction of the bullet symbol for fire action representing the use of Alcohol Resistant Foam as the fire fighting medium. This may be followed by a number which is the alternate fire fighting medium.
- The removal of white lettering 'BA for FIRE ONLY' on a black background.
- **Caution:** *dilute* is defined as able to be washed into a drain with large quantities of water. This is not advisable for NSW Fire Brigades crews unless approved by the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

HAZCHEM Emergency Action Code

FOR FIRE OR SPILLAGE



- 1 **COARSE SPRAY**
- 2 **FINE SPRAY**
- 3 **FOAM**
- 4 **DRY AGENT**
- **ALCOHOL RESISTANT FOAM**

P	V	LTS (FE GAS SUITS)	DILUTE
R			
S	V	BA & FIRE KIT (STRUCTURAL FF ENSEMBLE)	CONTAIN
T			
W	V	LTS (FE GAS SUITS)	CONTAIN
X			
Y	V	BA & FIRE KIT (STRUCTURAL FF ENSEMBLE)	CONTAIN
Z			

E PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARD

Additional Information

DRY AGENT

Water **must not** be allowed to come into contact with the substance at risk.

ALCOHOL RESISTANT FOAM •2 or •3

Alcohol resistant foam is the preferred medium.

If not available:

- If •2 – use Fine Spray or Water Fog
- If •3 – use Normal Protein Foam

V

Substance can be violently or even explosively reactive, including combustion.

LTS (FE GAS SUITS)

Liquid-Tight Chemical Protective Suit with BA. Full Structural FF Ensemble should also be worn for thermal protection if the substance is:

- or Liquid Oxygen
- or Liquefied Toxic Gas (Division 2.3)
- or Toxic Gas with sub-risk 2.1 or 5.1
- or Class or sub-risk 3
- or Division 5.1 PGI with sub-risk 6.1 or 8
- or carried at temperature > 100 °C

DILUTE

May be washed to drain with large quantities of water.

CONTAIN

Prevent, by any means available, spillage from entering drains or water course.

E

People should be warned to stay indoors with all doors and windows closed, –but evacuation may need to be considered. Consult Control (Fire), Police and product expert.

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Class/Division terminology

The term 'Class' is reserved for a parent class while 'Division' is used for divisions within each class e.g.

Class 2 Gases

Division 2.1 Flammable Gases

Division 2.2 Non-flammable, non-toxic gases

Division 2.3 Toxic Gases

New labels

Two new labels are added to the dangerous goods classes/divisions. They are:



Environmentally Hazardous
(pollutant to the environment)



Class 7 Fissile Material
(potential for nuclear detonation)

NOTE

ADG7 Class/Division labels may have either black or white writing.

Altered labels

Division 5.2 labels will incorporate a red flame component in line with other flammable material labels. This shows that the substance may react explosively with hydrocarbons, may ignite combustibles, may be ignited by ignition sources and has the ability to burn rapidly. The old version must be phased out by January 2011.



5.2 Organic Peroxide

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Subsidiary risk diamonds will display the division like the prime risk diamond (no class/division was displayed previously). Emergency responders should confirm sub-risks from the shipping documentation or manifest.



ADG6



ADG7

Subsidiary Risk Diamonds

Infectious substances classification

Division 6.2 is now divided into two risk categories:

Category A:

Substances where exposure will lead to permanent disability or life-threatening or fatal disease to otherwise healthy humans or animals.

Category B:

Infectious substances that do not meet the criteria for Category A goods of Division 6.2. Category B are biological substances (Category B) or clinical waste unspecified, where illness resulting from exposure may be medically treated.

Placards are required on vehicles transporting any quantity of Category A substances.

Category B substances may not be placarded but care should be always taken when handling infectious substances.



Noted: Station Commander	A	B	C	D	Other

Contact Officer:	File No:	Date:
Manager Hazardous Materials Response Unit: Superintendent Rob McNeil Ph (02) 9741 7322	CHO/01820	19 June 2008

Previous: Operations Bulletin: [Ethanol Blended Fuels](#) 2008/02