

Trade & Transport Alert

August 2005

The Revised Australian Dangerous Goods Code – Facilitating International Trade

In July 2005 the National Transport Commission (NTC) released a draft of the 7th Edition of the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG7) and the accompanying legislation for public comment. Once in force, ADG7 will be a substantial improvement on ADG6 as it will:

- be more consistent in form and content with the regulations relating to the carriage of dangerous goods by air and sea;
- be a single set of legislation and regulations for road and rail;
- include instructions for transport of infectious substances;
- include an information guide; and
- include some provisions from the NTC's model Chain of Responsibility legislation.

ADG7 will not deal with radio-active or explosive substances or manage security aspects of transporting dangerous goods.

Some significant changes between ADG6 and the draft ADG7 are as follows:

Intermediate Bulk Containers

The labelling requirements for the transport of dangerous goods in Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs) will change under the new regime. ADG6 requires IBCs to be labelled with Emergency Information Panels. Under ADG7 IBCs are treated as large packages and will no longer need to

be marked with the relevant Hazchem Code or emergency response telephone numbers. However, the requirements to include Class or Division and Subsidiary Risk labels and the Proper Shipping Name will remain.

Placarding thresholds

Under ADG6 if any quantity of "high risk" dangerous goods (that is flammable gas, toxic gas or Packing Group I material of any class) are added to the load, the point at which placards are required for dangerous goods goes from 1000 kg(L) to 250kg(L). ADG7 will only require placarding below 1000 kg(L) if there

Further information & public consultation

The NTC has asked for public comment on the proposed ADG7 by 31 August 2005. If you would like further information on the changes this can be obtained from their website at www.ntc.gov.au. We encourage all of those affected by the changes to read the available material and to take part in the public consultation process.



is at least 250L of flammable gas or 100kg(L) aggregate of toxic gas and Packing Group I material of any class.

Limited Quantities

Under ADG6 consumer quantities of dangerous goods (up to 2000 kg(L)) are exempted from certain documentation requirements. However, under ADG7 it is proposed that certain nominated "Limited Quantities" of dangerous goods will be exempted from some of the more onerous provisions of the Code. Whether or not the Limited Quantity exemptions are available and at what quantity they are available will depend on the type of dangerous

good being transported. No exemptions will be allowed for the most hazardous substances.

Licensing

Under ADG6 vehicles and drivers are exempt from the requirement to have a licence to carry any "dangerous goods in bulk" if the load transported is less than 3 IBCs. However, under ADG7 it is proposed that a licence will be required for all vehicles and drivers transporting dangerous goods unless they are being transported in a receptacle of less than 500 kg(L).

Implementation of ADG7

The NTC expects ADG7 to be published in its final form by April 2006. All Australian jurisdictions will then begin to implement the new regime into law from September 2006 onwards.

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