

Revised March 2007

Summary of Key Changes to Australian Dangerous Goods Code 7th Edition

CHANGES TO THE DRAFT ADG7 MODEL LEGISLATION

1. Membership of the Competent Authority Panel (CAP):
 - i. Competent authorities for air and sea retain their observer status.
 - ii. The Australian Transport Council can make appointments to CAP if it chooses.
2. The model legislation sets out a single set of regulations for both road and rail.
3. The powers of authorised officers now extend to both road and rail. Authorised officers can stop and conduct searches of vehicles, give directions to rail operators, inspect and search premises, seize and remove documentation, equipment and records, and obtain warrants, etc.
4. The model legislation contains a range of recommended sanctions and penalties. These are recommended values only for adoption by the States and Territories.
5. Provisions in the model legislation are marked either as a knowledge-based offence or as a strict liability offence. Again, these are recommendations only for adoption by the States and Territories.
6. The consignor is now responsible for ensuring that goods too dangerous to be transported are not consigned for transport.
7. There are two changes to the placard load in the 7th Edition: up to 10 kg(L) of infectious substances other than Category A no longer requires placarding or insurance. Under the 6th Edition no concessions were provided for the transport of Infectious Substances. The second change is the replacement of the 'bulk' threshold in the 6th Edition with a trigger of an individual receptacle with a capacity of 500 kg(L) in the 7th Edition.
8. Driver and vehicle licences will be required for any road vehicle transporting dangerous goods in a single container of greater than 500 kg(L) in capacity. The exemption for the transport of dangerous goods up to a maximum of 3,000L in Intermediate Bulk Containers is retained.
9. Dangerous Goods licences are now issued for 5 years instead of 3.
10. A minimum of \$5 million insurance is required for each unit of a vehicle carrying a placard load. Penalties for not having the required insurance have been substantially increased.
11. The revised 7th Edition regulations will take effect from 1 January 2008.

A one year overlap will be allowed between the 6th and 7th Edition. The 6th Edition will no longer apply after December 2008. Approvals, determinations and exemptions provided under the 6th Edition will be sunsetted on their stipulated date of expiry, if provided, or 5 years from the date of commencement of the new legislation.



CHANGES IN THE 7TH EDITION CODE

1. Some new definitions have been added such as overpack, large packaging, multiple element gas container and retail distribution load. Some definitions take their ordinary meaning only e.g. article, packaging and container.
2. The distinction between packaged dangerous goods and dangerous goods in bulk is gone. The 7th Edition uses a container based approach. Containers are now divided into:
 - i. packaging including IBCs and `large packagings;
 - ii. portable tanks and multiple element gas containers;
 - iii. bulk containers for solids only;
 - iv. tank vehicles; and
 - v. cylinders and pressure drums.
3. The 7th Edition includes Chapters 2.1 and 2.7 from UN 15 covering radio-actives and explosives.
4. The Dangerous Goods List includes new substances UN3357 to UN3481 inclusive, with the exception of UN3372.

Substances which have been removed from the Dangerous Goods List have been assigned to a special provision (AU05). These will be phased out by 1 January 2011.
5. Part 3 contains Australian Specific Special Provisions providing exemptions for:
 - i. Genetically modified organisms including genetically modified seed/feed products;
 - ii. 'greasy' wool;
 - iii. UN3077 and UN3082 transported in IBCs or any other receptacle < 500;
 - iv. GAS OIL or DIESEL OIL or HEATING OIL, LIGHT or PETROLEUM DISTILLATE (conditional).

Other special provisions cover:

 - v. the transport of un-odorized LP Gas which is prohibited; and
 - vi. UN Nos. 1014, 1015, 1079, 1080, 1081 and 2600 (already removed from UN14) will be phased out by 1 January 2011.

6. Substances assigned to UN3077 and UN3082 including herbicides and pesticides, will not be subject to the 7th Edition of the Code when being transported in Intermediate Bulk Containers or other receptacles < 500 kg(L).
7. The 7th Edition sets out comprehensive requirements for the transport of infectious substances. Clinical wastes and routine pathology specimens such as blood for transfusion, organs for transplant, medical research samples, etc. are not subject to the 7th Edition if under the placard load limits. However, they must be transported using the packaging conditions set out in the Code.

Placarding and insurance will be required for the transport of a quantity of 10 kg(L) or greater of Division 6.2 substances other than Category A.
8. Markings:

- The UN has introduced new environmentally hazardous markings for UN3077 and UN3082 but these substances when transported in packages e.g. IBCs are exempt from 7th Edition requirements (AU01);
- The use of orientation marking for certain combination and vented single packagings will not apply under 7th Edition;
- The new label for Organic Peroxide should be phased in over the lifespan of the 7th Edition and will not be valid after 1 January 2011;
- The 7th edition exempts inner packagings marked and labeled in accordance with GHS from Code requirements. The 7th Edition also provides an exemption from labels on inners where the European rectangular hazard pictograms are displayed;
- the Emergency Action Code for Liquefied Petroleum Gas is now indicated by 2YE (formerly 2WE). This change will affect Emergency Information Panels; and
- reverse print codes have been dropped – breathing apparatus is now used for all incidents and a bullet bow indicates alcohol resistant foam.

9. Emergency Information Panels will still be required on Intermediate Bulk Containers and on the vehicles transporting these receptacles except (conditionally) for import and export loads complying with other modal codes.
10. The 7th Edition provides detailed packing instructions and permits the use of pressure receptacles for packing liquids and solids as well as gases including multiple element gas containers. A range of standards are allowed: ISO/AUS/US/UK.
11. Transport of smaller quantities of dangerous goods is provided for in five ways:
 - i. very small consignments of dangerous goods are totally exempt;
 - ii. as a retail distribution load – small quantities of dangerous goods for personal or household use transported in mixed loads – max 20% of load or total aggregate quantity of 2,000 kg(L);
 - iii. as tools of trade - small quantities of dangerous goods used by tradespeople and others up to a limit of 500 kg(L) of which a maximum aggregate quantity must be less than 100 for Division 2.3 and Packing Group 1;
 - iv. non-commercial transport of up to 25% of a placard load; and
 - v. as limited quantities permitted by the Dangerous Goods List.
12. The distance from ignition source for the bulk transfer of flammables is set by Australian Standard 2430.

Further information on the Australian Goods Code can be obtained from the NTC website at www.ntc.gov.au by following the Dangerous Goods Quicklink located on the NTC Homepage.

www.ntc.gov.au

