

# D endorsements

## for carrying dangerous goods

The Land Transport Rule: Dangerous Goods 2005 (and its amendments) detail the legal requirements for transporting dangerous goods safely.

The Rule applies to all people who transport dangerous goods, but how the Rule applies will depend on:

- The type of dangerous goods being transported.
- The quantity of dangerous goods being transported.
- The purpose for which the dangerous goods are being transported.

Generally speaking the Rule requires those transporting dangerous goods to hold a current D endorsement on their driver licence.

There are some exceptions to the requirement to hold a current D endorsement:

- If you're transporting dangerous goods for hire or reward (eg if you're a transport operator or a courier), you will usually need a D endorsement. There are some exceptions, which are listed in clause 9.2 of the Rule.
- If you're transporting dangerous goods as tools-of-trade, for agricultural use or for a commercial purpose (but not for hire or direct reward) and the quantities are under the limits in schedule 1 of the Rule, you don't need a D endorsement.
- If you're transporting dangerous goods as tools-of-trade, for agricultural use or for a commercial purpose (but not for hire or direct reward) in quantities that are over the limits in schedule 1, you will need a D endorsement (except for dangerous goods that are toxic to the aquatic environment and classified as UN 3077 or UN 3082, environmentally hazardous substances).
- If you're transporting dangerous goods for domestic or recreational purposes, you don't need a D endorsement.

For more information on transporting dangerous goods for domestic or recreational purposes read Factsheet 69 *Dangerous goods transported for domestic or recreational purposes*.

For more information on transporting dangerous goods as tools-of-trade, for agricultural use or for a commercial purpose, but not for hire or direct reward, read Factsheet 68 *Dangerous goods transported as tools-of-trade*.

For more information on transporting dangerous goods as a licensed transport service operator or if you transport dangerous goods for direct reward, read Factsheet 67 *Dangerous goods carried by transport service operators or for direct reward*.

These factsheets provide an overview only. If your business involves transporting dangerous goods, you must also refer to

the Rule. The Rule is available for download from the Transport Agency website ([www.nzta.govt.nz/dangerous-goods](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/dangerous-goods)). Printed copies of the Rule are available from selected bookshops that sell legislation and some libraries.

### What are dangerous goods?

Dangerous goods for transport on land include substances and articles that have explosive, flammable, toxic, infectious, corrosive or environmentally hazardous properties, and containers that have held dangerous goods. All classes of dangerous goods are described in table A of the Rule, which is based on classifications in the *United Nations (UN) Recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods - model regulations*.

Commonly available goods that are classified as dangerous for transport include:

- ammunition and fireworks
- aerosol canisters
- LPG and CNG cylinders
- oxyacetylene and other welding cylinders
- compressed air cylinders for scuba diving
- diesel
- flammable liquids such as petrol, kerosene, methylated spirits, turpentine, thinners, solvent-based paints and epoxy resin
- hardener for epoxy resin
- some swimming pool chemicals
- some commercial and household cleaning products, such as dishwasher detergents
- some garden care products

### How do I recognise dangerous goods?

Packages containing dangerous goods must be marked or labelled to identify their hazardous properties. This is to warn everyone who handles or transports the goods, or finds the goods in an emergency situation.

For transport, dangerous goods are identified with a diamond shaped class warning label, a United Nations (UN) number and a proper shipping name:

- The diamond-shaped class warning labels give a pictorial representation of the danger – such as a flame for flammable substances or skull and cross bones for toxic (poisonous) substances. The class number of the dangerous goods is printed in the bottom corner of these labels.

- The UN number is a four-digit number preceded by the capital letters UN. For example, the UN number for petrol is UN 1203.
- The proper shipping name is usually of a chemical or technical nature and is often written in capital letters (eg LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GASES or PETROL).

Some products also require special marks to warn of hazards that are not indicated by other labels or marks. For example, products that are toxic to the aquatic environment and classified as environmentally hazardous substances must be identified with the environmentally hazardous substance mark (a diamond-shaped symbol of a dead fish and tree).

Dangerous goods packaged for retail sale do not always have the diamond-shaped label on the package, but are marked with warning information to identify the hazards presented by the product.



## How do I get a D endorsement?

### First, complete a course

You'll need to provide a course certificate as evidence that you've successfully completed an approved course that teaches specialist knowledge and skills relating to the transport of dangerous goods.

To find a course provider near you, visit [www.nzta.govt.nz/course-providers](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/course-providers), or call us on 0800 822 422.

**Note:** you can't carry dangerous goods just because you've got the course certificate. The endorsement must be on your driver licence.

### Next, apply for the endorsement

You can apply for a D endorsement at a driver licensing agent. These are selected branches of the Automobile Association (AA) or Vehicle Testing New Zealand (VTNZ). Go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/driver-licence-agents](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/driver-licence-agents) to find an agent in your area.

You need to bring:

- a completed DL19 application form (go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL19](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL19) to download the form)

The information in this factsheet is a general guide only. It is not the source of the law and should not be used in place of authoritative legal documents. Some factsheets are updated frequently and print versions can quickly become out of date. If the currency of the information you are reading is important, check the factsheet index on our website ([www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets)) or call us on 0800 822 422.

- Evidence of your identity:
  - your New Zealand photo driver licence (which can be current or expired up to two years) or
  - your current New Zealand passport, or
  - two other acceptable forms of evidence of identity (see Factsheet 20 *Identification for driver licensing* for further information and a full list of acceptable identity documents)
- a certificate showing you have successfully completed an appropriate and approved course (the course certificate must be no more than 60 days old)
- a cheque, cash or EFTPOS card to pay the \$44 application fee.

The D endorsement will be valid for five years. (The expiry date of your endorsement will be on the back of your driver licence.)

To renew the endorsement, you'll have to complete another course (to stay up to date with any developments or changes) and apply again following the process above.

### Eyesight requirements

You must prove that your eyesight meets the required standard each time you apply for a D endorsement. You can do this by:

- passing an eyesight check at a driver licensing agent, or
- presenting an original eyesight or medical certificate issued by a New Zealand registered optometrist or doctor (medical practitioner) (no more than 60 days old).

You may take the eyesight test while wearing glasses or contact lenses. Your licence will then have a condition that you must always wear these while driving.

If you try to pass the eyesight check at an agent and fail, then you must provide a satisfactory eyesight or medical certificate. Your application won't be completed (and you won't get a licence) until you've provided the certificate.

Sight in only one eye can dramatically affect your ability to judge distance. If you can only see out of one eye, or only have one eye, you must present an acceptable certificate stating that you're safe to drive.

### Contact details

- Call our contact centre: 0800 822 422.
- Visit our website: [www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz).
- Email us: [info@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:info@nzta.govt.nz).
- Write to us: NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442.