

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 it affects you will depend on the nature, quantity and use of the goods.

This factsheet briefly outlines the requirements for transporting dangerous goods under the Rule.

Who does the Rule apply to?

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

- the type of dangerous goods
- how much you are transporting
- whether you are transporting the dangerous goods in a transport service, as tools-of-trade or for your own domestic or recreational purpose.

Where can I find out more?

You can get more detail from the following factsheets:

- Factsheet 67 Dangerous goods carried by transport service operators or for direct reward. This is for transport operators transporting dangerous goods for hire or reward.
- Factsheet 68 Dangerous goods transported as tools-of-trade. This covers the transport of dangerous goods for agricultural use or a commercial purpose, but not for hire or direct reward.
- Factsheet 69 Dangerous goods transported for domestic or recreational use.
- Factsheet 37 D endorsements for carrying dangerous goods. This tells you about getting a dangerous goods (D) endorsement on your driver licence. You need one if you transport dangerous goods for hire or reward or if you carry large quantities of dangerous goods.

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. Printed copies of the Rule are available from selected bookshops that sell legislation and some libraries.

What are dangerous goods?

For transport on land, dangerous goods include: substances 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. Some commonly available items, such as fireworks, petrol, swimming pool chemicals, LPG, compressed air cylinders, solvent-based paints and diesel are classified as dangerous goods.

How do I recognise dangerous goods?

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

For transport, dangerous goods are identified with a UN number, a proper shipping name and a diamond-shaped class warning label. Some products also have 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 are identified with the environmentally hazardous substance mark (a diamond-shaped symbol of a dead fish and tree).

Dangerous goods packaged for retail sale don't always have the diamond-shaped class label on the package, but are marked with warning information to identify the hazards they present.



How can I transport dangerous goods safely?

The Rule details how you can transport dangerous goods safely and securely, depending on the nature and quantity of the dangerous goods.

What are my responsibilities?

Everyone involved in transporting dangerous goods has to comply with the Rule. Responsibilities are allocated according to tasks, and you are responsible for all the tasks you do.

There are specific responsibilities for consignors (manufacturers, importers or distributors), loaders, drivers and operators of road or rail vehicles, and employers.

Small quantities of dangerous goods

If you carry dangerous goods as tools-of-trade for agricultural use or for a commercial purpose, but not for hire or direct reward, and the quantity is within the limits in schedule 1 of the Rule, then you are responsible for:

- making sure the goods are properly packaged and identified
- segregating incompatible dangerous goods
- securing the load on your vehicle
- carrying emergency response information
- ensuring safe handling practices and emergency procedures.

If you carry dangerous goods for domestic or recreational use, but not for hire or direct reward, and the quantity is within the limits in schedule 1 of the Rule, then you are responsible for:

- making sure the goods are properly packaged and identified
- segregating incompatible dangerous goods
- securing the load on your vehicle.

If you are a **transport service operator** or if you **transport dangerous goods for direct reward (eg a courier)**, you have specific responsibilities, set out in the Rule, when transporting dangerous goods in small quantities. Small quantities of dangerous goods include the following:

- **Dangerous goods in limited quantities and consumer commodities.** These are dangerous goods of low or medium danger in small primary containers and packaged for transport in strong outer packagings. They can be transported with some relaxation of controls. The requirements for this category of dangerous goods are set out in section 2 of the Rule.
- **Small packages of dangerous goods in limited quantities or consumer commodities.** These may be transported without a dangerous goods declaration, placards on the vehicle or drivers having a dangerous goods endorsement on their driver licence, as long as the total quantity does not exceed 50 kilograms. Please note that many dangerous goods are not allowed to be transported as **small packages**.

Some explosives can also be transported under the **small packages** provisions.

The Rule has provisions for **dangerous goods in excepted quantities**. These are very small quantities of low-danger products, eg 30 millilitres of perfume. There are also provisions for **excepted packages of radioactive material**, such as empty packaging or radioactive material in instruments and manufactured articles. Subject to the controls in clause 2.9 of the Rule, these products can be carried without a dangerous goods declaration, segregation, placards or a driver licence endorsement.

Refer to section 2 of the Rule for requirements for **small packages, dangerous goods in excepted quantities** and **excepted packages of radioactive material**.

Large quantities of dangerous goods

You must comply with all the requirements of the Rule if you carry **dangerous goods as tools-of-trade**, for **agricultural use** or for a **commercial purpose**, and the quantities are more than the limits in schedule 1 of the Rule.

These include requirements for packaging, identification, documentation, segregation, placarding and driver licence endorsement.

When transporting dangerous goods for **domestic or recreational use**, you must comply with additional requirements in the Rule if you carry more than the limits shown in schedule 1. This includes additional requirements for packaging, labelling and marking, segregation and transport procedures – including emergency response information.

Transport service operators and other people who transport dangerous goods for direct reward have to comply with all requirements of the Rule when transporting large quantities of dangerous goods.

Technical information for compliance with the Rule

Not everyone involved in dangerous goods transport will need technical information, but if you are a manufacturer, importer or distributor of dangerous goods, you will have to refer to one of the documents incorporated in the Rule to meet your responsibilities. New Zealand Standard 5433 *Transport of dangerous goods on land* provides information on:

- classification of dangerous goods for transport
- packing instructions
- specifications for hazard warning labels
- the list of **UN numbers** and **proper shipping names** for goods classified as dangerous for transport, and the list of special provisions.

Where can I find out more?

- Read the Rule.
- Get a copy of NZS 5433:2012 from Standards New Zealand (0800 782 632).
- Read factsheets 67, 68 or 69.
- Call the NZ Transport Agency's contact centre on 0800 699 000.
- For detailed description of the definitions used in this factsheet, refer to the Rule (www.nzta.govt.nz/dangerous-goods).

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) or call us on 0800 699 000.

Contact details

- Call our contact centre: 0800 699 000.
- Visit our website: www.nzta.govt.nz.
- Email us: info@nzta.govt.nz.
- Write to us: NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442.