

## Road transport of dangerous goods: Shipping (transport) documents

Shipping (or transport) documents provide information about the load of dangerous goods being carried on a vehicle.

### *When are shipping documents required?*

Shipping documents are required for the transport of all dangerous goods, except for the private transport of small quantities of less than:

- 62.5 litres or kilograms of flammable gases, toxic gases or dangerous goods of Packing Group I, or
- 250 litres or kilograms of all other types of dangerous goods.

Shipping documents give a detailed description of the dangerous goods being carried and warn emergency services and other road users that the goods on board present a greater risk to people, property and the environment than ordinary loads.

### *What must consignors do?*

Consignors—those who send dangerous goods for transport by road—must provide the prime contractor or driver with shipping documents which describe the dangerous goods.

### *What must prime contractors do?*

Prime contractors who are responsible for transporting dangerous goods must ensure that a separate shipping document is completed and accompanies each consignment of dangerous goods.

A number of consignments from the one consignor carried on a single vehicle may be listed on the same shipping document if they remain on the vehicle for the whole journey.

When dangerous and non-dangerous goods are transported together, the dangerous goods must appear first on the shipping document.



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### *What must drivers do?*

Drivers must ensure that shipping documents are carried in the cabin of their vehicle, and make them available to an authorised person and the emergency services, if requested.

### *Required content of shipping documents*

The information below—**legible and in English**—is required for a shipping document to be fully complete. Details about the items marked with an asterisk (\*) are normally available on the package label or Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the product, or from the product's supplier, manufacturer or importer.

1. Consignor's name, address and telephone number
  2. Description of the dangerous goods including:
    - name—this may be the proper shipping name or the name of the goods which appears on the packaging or bulk container
    - Dangerous Goods Class\*
    - Subsidiary Risk\* (where it applies)
    - United Nations (UN) Number\*
    - Packing Group\* (if any).
  3. For **packaged** dangerous goods:
    - the type of packages
    - the number of packages of each type.
- For **bulk** dangerous goods:
- the type of bulk container
  - the number of bulk containers of each type.
4. '**Aggregate quantity**' of the goods, which is the quantity in kilograms and/or litres of all solid, liquid and gaseous dangerous goods being carried: At all times the aggregate quantity shown on the shipping document should reflect the

quantity of dangerous goods currently on the vehicle. This figure must be updated as dangerous goods are unloaded from the vehicle. The shipping document for a bulk vehicle which has delivered its load from a compartment or container should show 'residues only' or a similar wording for the empty compartments or containers still on the vehicle.

The name, Dangerous Goods Class, Subsidiary Risk, UN Number and Packing Group must appear first on the shipping document. The order in which the other criteria appear is optional.

### *Shipping document forms*

There is no standard shipping document form for the land transport of dangerous goods in Australia. Consignors may produce the shipping document in any suitable format provided all necessary information is included. However, if a consignment is also to travel by air or sea, a standard form must be used.

For air transport, the Australian Federation of International Forwarders on (02) 9314 3055 or at [www.afif.asn.au](http://www.afif.asn.au) has details on how to obtain the Shipper's Declaration for Dangerous Goods Form.

For transport by sea, contact the Australian Maritime Safety Authority on (02) 6279 5000 or at [www.amsa.gov.au](http://www.amsa.gov.au) for details of the Multimodal Dangerous Goods Form (AMSA250).

These standard forms may also be used for land transport in Australia.

### *Dangerous goods and wastes*

For dangerous goods which are also wastes, the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001* also apply in NSW.

## SHIPPING DOCUMENT

Consigned by:\*

Order No:  
To:

Invoice No:  
Date:  
Transported by:

| Proper shipping name* | Class* | Subsidiary Risk* | UN No.* | Packing Group* | Container type* | No. of containers* | Aggregate quantity* |
|-----------------------|--------|------------------|---------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
|                       |        |                  |         |                |                 |                    |                     |

\* Required information

### Description of a load for a shipping document (example only)

| Proper shipping name  | Class | Subsidiary Risk | UN No. | Packing Group | Container type   | No. of containers  | Aggregate quantity |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|--------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Acetic acid           | 8     | —               | 2789   | II            | 200 L drum       | 2                  | 400 L              |
| Sulfuric acid, fuming | 8     | 6.1             | 1831   | I             | Bottles in boxes | 5 fibreboard boxes | 15 L               |
| Washing powder        | na    | na              | na     | na            | —                | 9 fibreboard boxes | 400 kg             |

### More information

This information is a guide only. The EPA also has a number of other related guides on the road transport of dangerous goods:

- *Road Transport of Dangerous Goods: Responsibilities of Consignors* (Environment Matters 33)
- *Road Transport of Dangerous Goods: Responsibilities of Prime Contractors* (Environment Matters 34)
- *Road Transport of Dangerous Goods: Responsibilities of Vehicle Owners* (Environment Matters 35)
- *Road Transport of Dangerous Goods: Responsibilities of Drivers* (Environment Matters 36)
- *Road Transport of Dangerous Goods: Warning Signs for Bulk Goods Vehicles* (Environment Matters 38)
- *Road Transport of Dangerous Goods: Warning Signs for Packaged Goods Vehicles* (Environment Matters 39).

The following publications provide complete details about the requirements for transporting dangerous goods by road:

- *Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail* (6th edition, 1998) (available from Ausinfo bookshops, phone 132 447)
- *Dangerous Goods—Initial Emergency Response Guide* (SAA/SNZ HB76) and the *Emergency Procedure Guides* (AS1678) (available from Standards Australia, phone 1300 654 646)

- *Load Restraint Guide* (1994) (available from the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority, phone 131 782)
- *Road and Rail Transport (Dangerous Goods) Act 1997*, *Road and Rail Transport (Dangerous Goods) (Road) Regulation 1998*, *Road Transport Reform (Dangerous Goods) (NSW) Regulations 1998*, and *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) (Road Rules) Regulation 1999* (available from the NSW Government Information Service, phone (02) 9238 0950, or on the web at [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au)).



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|                       |        |                  |         |                |                 |                    |                     |

\* Required information

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