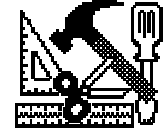




TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS



HSE TOOL # 16

Each year millions of shipments of products and/or wastes defined as dangerous goods are shipped across British Columbia and Canada. With this much movement there is great potential for endangering human life and damaging our environment through mishaps in the course of transportation. The Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Act (1992) was enacted by the federal government to promote the safety of human life and health, property and the environment.

A dangerous good is a product, substance, waste, or organism included by its nature or by the regulations in any of the nine classes listed in the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations. These classes (essentially the same as the WHMIS classes) include:

- *explosives*
- *compressed gases*
- *flammable liquids*
- *other flammable hazards*
- *oxygen rich material, oxidizers, and organic peroxides*
- *material affecting health, poisons and infectious substances*
- *radioactive material*
- *corrosive material e.g., acids and bases*
- *miscellaneous hazards such as environmentally hazardous waste.*

The TDG Act places specific requirements on personnel who engage in the act of shipping, transporting and receiving dangerous goods within the province, the country or across Canadian borders by all modes of transport. These requirements ensure that, in the event of an emergency, emergency responders have immediate access to information about the dangerous goods as a result of consistent documentation, labeling and vehicle placarding.

Requirements Under the Law *(this is not a legal opinion)*

The legislation clearly defines a “dangerous good” and what documentation, labeling and packaging, training of personnel, and emergency response is required for such a material. *Each individual who ships, receives or transports “dangerous goods” must receive training in the procedures to be followed in their job to maintain compliance with the regulations.* They must also be issued a certificate stating the training received and the duties that can be performed. This certificate must be carried with them for presentation to a Transport Canada Official or Police Officer on request.

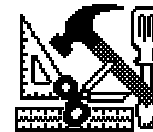
If your work and/or research site receives chemicals, radioisotopes, or microbiological materials or waste; ships these to other facilities on or off-campus; or carries them into the field for use in fieldwork... you must comply with the requirements of the TDG Act and Regulations.

The failure of UBC staff to comply with the federal Act or its regulations may result in:

- **finest up to \$50,000 for each 1st offence and \$100,000 for each subsequent offence;**
- **payment of compensation for damages or remedial measures;**
- **prohibition from TDG activities for up to one year;**
- **prison terms of up to 2 years less one day; and/or**
- **an order to provide funds for research in TDG issues.**



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You know that a material is a dangerous good:

- if it is a WHMIS-controlled product (usually),
- if the supplier states that it is, or it is indicated on the MSDS, or
- if it is in Schedule II of the TDG Regulations.

You may also contact the HSE Chemical Safety Officer (822-5909) for confirmation of TDG status of a material.

IF you transport dangerous goods for work or research ON-CAMPUS you must:

- ensure (at a minimum) that
 - the materials are labeled properly,
 - you are aware of the hazards associated with the material,
 - you have outer packaging to prevent an accidental release or spill, and
 - you know what to do in the case of a spill.
- contact the Chemical Safety Officer first if you are planning to use a vehicle for on-campus transport of dangerous goods,
- contact the Chemical Safety Officer (822-5909) for information and training for anyone who routinely transports dangerous goods on campus or departments that are moving laboratory sites.

To re-use boxes that have been used for shipping dangerous goods (i.e., have TDG labels):

you must deface or remove all TDG labels on the outside of the box. It is illegal to transport materials with misleading safety marks and labels under the TDG Act.

If you have been certified and trained in TDG by another employer:

you must be recertified by UBC, because certification and training in TDG is employer-specific under the regulations. In addition, you must be re-certified by UBC every three (3) years for transport of dangerous goods by road and every year for transport by air.

If you transport waste materials for your research or work:

[except domestic garbage, which is exempted from the TDG regulations] you should contact the HSE Chemical Safety Officer (822-5909) to confirm what is required. If you transport less than 5kg of solid waste or 5L of liquid waste, you *may* also be exempted from the TDG regulations.

If office staff receive chemicals or other hazardous materials for your lab or work site:

office staff who receive boxes of chemicals from suppliers or couriers must be trained in the TDG Receivers' Course offered by HSE.

Health, Safety and Environment is working to ensure UBC personnel and facilities comply with the TDG regulations. The Chemical Safety Officer may be contacted for more information about TDG training, and other TDG questions may be addressed to the HSE office at 822-2029.