

Regulations for the transportation of Dangerous Goods and Substances

The National Road Traffic Act 93 (Act 93 of 1996) was implemented in August 2000. This legislation included provisions for the road transport of **Dangerous Goods** and the relevant regulations were enforced from the 3rd August 2001. The legislation addresses issues like the actual goods and substances being transported both in bulk and in packs, all products that are classified as dangerous in terms of SANS 10228 as well as the quantities and the mix of the products transported.

What does the Act say?

The Act demands that the consignor, operator and consignee of Dangerous Goods comply with the requirements of Chapter VIII of the Act and the SABS codes of practice which are incorporated in the Act as regulations, provided the goods or substances are transported in excess of the exempt quantity allowed.

In practical terms the distributor is the consignor, the transporter of the goods is the operator and the receiver of the goods is the consignee.

But what does this mean in practical terms?

Any person transporting Dangerous Goods, as classified in SANS10228 (this is the standard issued by the South African National Standards), in quantities above the exempt quantity will have to be fully compliant with the Act. Also taking into consideration the mix of products you are transporting.

What does it mean to be compliant?

In short it means that if you are transporting Dangerous Goods in excess of the exempt quantity you need to be fully compliant with the law which entails the following:

1. The legislation requires vehicles to be placarded to display the type of substances transported and for the Operator to be registered as a Dangerous Goods transporter.
2. Drivers of vehicles above 3500 gvm require Professional Driving Permits with category "D".
3. Specific documents are required to be carried by the driver in an orange container mounted in the cab of the vehicle. These include a Transport Emergency Card (Tremcard) and a Dangerous Goods Declaration for the goods or substances on the load.
4. If you transport Dangerous Goods, as the operator (owner of the vehicle), you are required to ensure that you are registered as a Dangerous Goods Operator for each vehicle used (Operator Disc – Category "D")
5. You have arranged Adequate Insurance to cover Civil Liability, Recovery and Rehabilitation costs in the case of an accident involving Dangerous Goods or Substances.
6. You have ensured safety at loading and unloading points.
7. You are using a vehicle suitable for the goods or substances to be loaded, and which can be legally loaded in terms of the National Road Traffic Act.
8. You have obtained the information from the Consignor to ensure you are aware of the hazards of the goods and substances to be transported and you have details of the placarding required on the vehicle and the applicable Tremcard.
9. You have planned the route to be used and notified the Emergency responders (Only for the first load) about the goods or substances to be transported and the route.
10. Your driver is suitably trained and understands the duties of a driver.
11. You inspect and maintain your vehicle in terms of the standard specification included in the Act.
12. You have assessed Loading and Unloading tasks to be performed and ensured that your employees are suitably qualified to perform the tasks.
13. Operational Agreements, in an acceptable format, have been concluded with the Consignor and the Consignee (if applicable)
14. You are fully aware of the Compatibility of Multiloads - when transporting classified goods or substances of more than one class or even goods or substances of the same class, this is called a Multiload. Multiloads must be compatible in terms of the legislation and special multiload placards are required for the placarding of the vehicle.

15. You ensure that you have the correct Placarding on the vehicle. Vehicles transporting Dangerous Goods or Substances in excess of the exempt quantity permitted, must display an Orange Warning Diamond mounted on the front of the vehicles



Danger Warning Placarding displays specific information and includes:
 Information about the load – Single Substance or Multiload
 The Operators telephone number
 A number for Specialist Advice
 Hazard Class Diamond



As we indicated at the beginning this law has been in place since 2001, and we understand that it would not be possible for everybody to become compliant immediately, however we would like to stress the importance for compliance. We would like to grant a three month period for everyone to understand and become compliant. After this period we will be obliged to enforce the legislation.

We at Protea Chemicals Inland are committed to helping you our valued customer become compliant with this law and will be more than willing to assist you with any questions you might have.

Please contact: Malcolm Krishenlall on 821 3329 or 0795119145 or Yvonne Purves on 821 3367 or 082 469 2200.