



*Guidance Notes for
Using Containers or Cargo Vehicles to Convey or
Stow Vehicle Parts Containing or Stained with Fuel*



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Section 1 :

Preamble



From 1997 to 1999, a total of three explosion incidents involving freight containers carrying used motorcycles and vehicle parts occurred in Hong Kong, which caused one death and four injuries. To guard against similar accidents, the Fire Services Department explored means of securing a more effective control over the conveyance or stowage of vehicle parts containing or stained with fuel in the review of the Fire Services Ordinance in 1999.

According to the Fire Services (Fire Hazard Abatement) Regulation, containers that are open at the top or well ventilated should be used in the conveyance on land of vehicle parts containing or stained with fuel, or stowage of such vehicle parts which are to be conveyed on land, otherwise it shall be guilty of an offence.

The purpose of issuing these guidance notes is to advise consignors, vehicle owners, drivers, loading workers and the like, who are using containers to convey or stow vehicle parts containing or stained with fuel, on matters of which they should take note in the course of conveyance or stowage, as well as to provide relevant guidelines and remind relevant parties of their responsibilities.

This booklet is not a legal document. The information provided is for reference only, and the contents shall not impose any legal responsibility or obligation on this Department.

“Parts” mentioned in this booklet include any part of a vehicle.

“Containers” mentioned in this booklet include ordinary freight containers and cargo compartments.

Section 2 :

Purposes

- Arouse the attention and awareness of consignors, vehicle owners, drivers, loading workers and other parties concerned regarding relevant regulations.
- Explain the responsibilities of consignors, vehicle owners, drivers, loading workers and other parties concerned in the conveyance or stowage of vehicle parts containing or stained with fuel.
- Enable consignors, vehicle owners, drivers, loading workers and other parties concerned to understand how vehicle parts containing or stained with fuel can be conveyed or stowed in a safe manner.
- Provide guidelines for relevant parties so as to prevent them from using improper containers to convey or stow vehicle parts containing or stained with fuel.

Section 3 :

Relevant Regulations and Penalties

Fire Services (Fire Hazard Abatement) Regulation

- Motor Vehicle - includes a motor cycle with or without a side car.
Container - means : (a) the cargo compartment of a lorry; or
(b) a freight container otherwise than on board a vessel or aircraft.

Offence related to the conveyance of vehicle parts

No person shall arrange to or give permission to convey on land, or convey on land vehicle parts containing or stained with fuel in a container.

Offence related to stowage of vehicle parts

No person shall arrange to or give permission to stow, or stow vehicle parts containing or stained with fuel in a container that is or is to be conveyed on land.

Penalties

Failure to comply with the above regulation is liable :

- on a first conviction, to a fine at level 6 * and to imprisonment for 6 months
- on a subsequent conviction, to a fine of \$200,000 and to imprisonment for 1 year

However, it shall not be an offence if the container is open at the top or well ventilated.

*Remarks : * According to the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, level 6 is \$100,000.*

Section 4 :

Matters of Which Consignors Should Take Note

- Ensure that the vehicle parts being conveyed or stowed have been properly cleaned, and are not containing nor stained with any fuel.
- Should the conveyance and stowage of vehicle parts containing or stained with fuel be necessary, proper containers, i.e. those that are open at the top or well ventilated shall be used.
- Ensure that the vehicle parts being conveyed or stowed are laid out tidily and secured in position, so as to avoid accidents that may result from collision of the vehicle parts in the course of conveyance and stowage.
- Provide vehicle owners and drivers with relevant documents indicating the name, packing, weight, quantity, size, value, etc., of the goods.

Section 5 :



Matters of Which Vehicle Owners Should Take Note

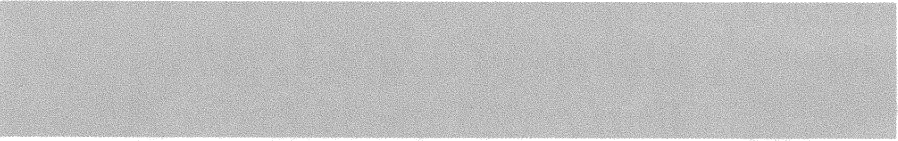
- Should the conveyance and stowage of vehicle parts containing or stained with fuel be necessary, proper containers, i.e. those that are open at the top or well ventilated shall be used.
- If containers not open at the top or not well ventilated are used to convey or stow vehicle parts, vehicle owners should ensure that the vehicle parts are not containing nor stained with any fuel, and explain it to the driver accordingly.
- Pay attention to documents related to the consignment of vehicle parts and have knowledge of the contents, including name, packing, weight, quantity, size and value of the goods, whether the goods are containing or stained with any fuel, etc. If there is any doubt, vehicle owners should contact the consignors for information and clarification.
- If information on the goods being consigned is incomplete, vehicle owners should inquire of the consignors, and request them to provide complete information.
- Ensure that the vehicle is in sound mechanical condition and roadworthy.
- Ensure that the vehicle has a valid licence issued by the Transport Department.
- Remind the drivers that the gross weight of vehicle parts loaded on board shall not exceed the permitted laden weight and axle weight of the vehicle.

Section 6 :

Matters of Which Vehicle Drivers Should Take Note

As the nature of incidents involving the use of inappropriate containers to convey or stow vehicle parts containing or stained with fuel varies from case to case, the Fire Services Department can only generalize and list out, as far as practicable, matters which call for the attention of drivers. The following points are not comprehensive, drivers should make appropriate judgment on the basis of individual circumstances.

- Drivers should have knowledge of details related to the goods being consigned, including the name, packing, weight, quantity, size and value of the goods. If the information is incomplete, they should inquire of the consignors or vehicle owners and request complete information.
- Drivers should have a good knowledge of the contents of documents such as manifests, invoices, permits or licences. If the addresses and telephone numbers of the consignors and consignees are not stated in such documents, or if the consignments do not tally with those listed on the manifests, drivers should demand clarification from the consignors or vehicle owners.
- If the consignors do not make constant use of containers to convey vehicle parts, drivers should pay special attention to the condition of the vehicle parts being consigned.

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- Drivers should keep consignment records, information on the consignors and consignees, and relevant signed documents.
 - Before making use of containers to convey vehicle parts, drivers should check carefully whether the containers have been opened, and whether there is any smell of fuel. If smell of fuel is detected, or if there is any doubt, drivers should contact the consignors or vehicle owners for information and clarification.
 - If there is any doubt about information such as the packing, smell, quantity and weight of the vehicle parts being consigned, and if the consignors cannot be reached because of the lack of information on them, or if the consignors did not provide sufficient information concerning the points in doubt, drivers should refuse to convey the goods.

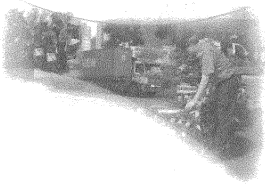
Section 7 :



Matters of Which Loading Workers / Supervisors or Persons in Charge of the Goods Yard Should Take Note

- Loading workers / supervisors or persons-in-charge of the goods yard should use appropriate containers to stow vehicle parts containing or stained with fuel.
- Before loading the vehicle parts into enclosed containers, loading workers should examine carefully whether the vehicle parts are containing or stained with fuel; if fuel is detected, they should stop the loading process immediately, and approach the consignors or goods owners, indicating that it is illegal to convey on land vehicle parts containing or stained with fuel by means of enclosed containers, or stow such vehicle parts which are to be conveyed on land in enclosed containers.
- If loading workers / supervisors or persons-in-charge of the goods yard detect the smell of fuel coming from the vehicle parts they are loading, they should stop the loading process immediately and examine the goods carefully.
- Loading workers / supervisors or persons-in-charge of the goods yard should ensure that the vehicle parts are laid out tidily and secured in position in the containers, so as to avoid accidents that may result from collision of the vehicle parts during transport.

Section 8 :



Precautions Against Fire and Accidents

Before Transport

- Containers should be put at a suitable place and kept away from sources of ignition.
- For the prevention of fire, loading workers are strictly prohibited from smoking during the loading process.
- Ensure that the vehicle parts are laid out tidily and secured in position in the containers, so as to avoid accidents that may result from collision of the vehicle parts.
- Vehicle parts should not be placed outside the cargo compartments.
- Check the permitted laden weight of the vehicle to avoid over-loading.

During Transport

- Drivers and vehicle attendants are strictly prohibited from smoking during the conveyance of goods.
- Drive carefully and avoid speeding.
- In case of emergency, such as traffic accidents, the driver should stop the vehicle at a suitable location and switch off the engine, and call 999 immediately. Under safe conditions, the driver should direct other vehicles to keep off at a distance, and give warning to people in the vicinity.

Section 9 :

Enquiries

For enquires on these guidance notes, please contact the staff of the Policy Division, Licensing and Certification Command, Fire Services Department at the following address, telephone, facsimile and e-mail address:

5/F, Fire Services Headquarters Building,

1 Hong Chong Road,

Tsim Sha Tsui East,

Kowloon.

Telephone : 2733 7556

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*Fire Services Department
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