

Code of Practice for Interim Measures for Conveyance of **Categories 3 and 4** **Dangerous Goods** by Vehicles



Fire Services Department



Purpose for issuing this Code

The purpose for issuing this Code is to advise the parties engaged in the transport of corrosive and poisonous substances (i.e. Categories 3 and 4 dangerous goods) including the consignors, drivers, vehicle owners and attendants on the interim measures for safe transport of these substances before completion of the comprehensive study on the transport of dangerous goods.

This Code aims at providing generally advisory guidelines and does not mean to preclude the parties concerned from observing other safety precautions that are conducive to the safe transport of these substances by vehicles.

Contents of this Code

Section 1 : Safety Guidelines

- Vehicle
- Stowage
- Responsibilities of Consignor
- Responsibilities of Vehicle Driver
- Responsibilities of Vehicle Attendant
- Responsibilities of Vehicle Owner

Section 2 : Emergency Procedures

Section 3 : Specimens of Prescribed Labels

Section 4 : Enquiry

Section 1 : Safety Guidelines

- **Vehicle**

Conditions of Vehicle

- Goods vehicle with enclosed cargo compartment is preferred.
- If an open cargo compartment goods vehicle is to be used, protect the substances from direct sunlight or rain.
- The vehicle's design, construction and strength must be in compliance with the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations, Chapter 374, Laws of Hong Kong.
- Keep the vehicle clean, in sound mechanical condition and roadworthy.

Conditions of Cargo Compartment/Platform

- Keep the interior of vehicle, including doors/openings in good condition and free from defects or projections which might cause accidental damage to the packages.
- Do not install electric wiring/device in such area.

Safety Provisions

- Display the following warning signs as appropriate at the front and rear of the vehicle with each English Capital and Chinese Character not less than 120mm high with 5mm wide strokes. The capital and character should be in red colour with white background:-

“小心腐蝕性物質 勿近

Caution, Corrosive Substances, Keep Clear”

“小心腐蝕性物質 勿近

Caution, Poisonous Substances, Keep Clear”

- Provide one 4.5kg dry powder fire extinguisher in the driver's cabin.
- Provide suitable and adequate number of protective clothing, such as goggles, rubber gloves and rubber boots etc. for loading and unloading the substances.
- Preferably provide a portable mobile phone for easy communication in case of emergency.
- **Stowage**

Packaging and Labelling

- Ensure the substances are properly packaged by suitable means for safe loading and unloading.
- Ensure the packages are provided with appropriate labels in accordance with the Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations, Cap 295, Laws of Hong Kong. Specimens of three labels are provided at Section 3 for reference.

Stacking/Arrangement of the Load

- Stow the substances in the cargo platform/compartment of the vehicle only.
- Check the permissible weight of the vehicle to avoid overloading.
- Stow the substances orderly to avoid their outer packings from damaging one another, particularly when they are in different shape or made of different materials.
- When the substances are stowed on pallets, ensure the pallets are in sound condition and free from projections to avoid damage to the packages.
- Do not stow beyond the periphery of the vehicle.
- Do not stow to a height exceeding the side board, tail board or head board of the vehicle.
- Stow all substances in upright position and provide suitable dunnage in between layers of the drums or containers. The stacking of drums and containers should follow the instructions marked on the package.

- The jib of the vehicle, if provided, should not be used to hold the load and should be in parking position when the vehicle is in motion.

Securing the load

- Properly secure the load whatever they are packaged in drums, boxes, crates, wicker hampers, jerricans, bags, etc. to ensure they are stable even when the vehicle brakes, accelerates or turns. For drums, use racks or pallets for stowage.
- Use canvas to protect the substances from direct sunlight and rain if they are transported in open cargo compartment.

- **Responsibilities of Consignor**

- Ensure the substances are properly packaged and labeled.
- Provide a copy of the relevant manifest of the substances to the vehicle driver concerned.
- Ensure the substances are properly secured by reference to the guidelines for stowage stipulated above before the vehicle is driver off.
- Ensure no ruptured/damaged packages are loaded on the vehicle.
- Ensure no mixed stowage of incompatible substances such as certain poisonous substances (i.e. Acetone cyanohydrin, bleaching powder, cyanides, hypochlorite solutions) and corrosive substances (i.e. acids).

- **Responsibilities of Vehicle Driver**

Packaging and Labelling

- Check whether the substances are properly packaged and labeled.

Manifest

- When transporting the substances, always keep a copy of the manifest in the vehicle for producing to firemen

or policemen on demand.

- Be fully aware of the characteristics of the substances under transport.

Loading Limit

- Check the permissible weight of the vehicle so as to avoid over-loading.

Conditions of Cargo Platform/Compartment

- Before loading the substances, check the cargo platform/compartment and its bodywork to ensure they are in good condition and free from sharp objects or combustibles.
- Ensure the tail board, side board, head board or any door/opening are secured and no person is staying in the cargo platform/compartment before driving off the vehicle.

Securing the Load

- Ensure the substances are properly secured by reference to the above guidelines for stowage before driving off the vehicle.

Safety Provisions

- Ensure the appropriate warning signs are displayed at the front and rear of the vehicle before driving off the vehicle.
- Wear the protective clothing, such as goggles, rubber gloves and rubber boots etc. when loading and unloading the substances.
- Be competent to operate all equipment on board the vehicle including the fire extinguisher.

Others

- Prohibit smoking, eating or drinking on vehicle when loaded with the substances.
- Ensure the vehicle is attended at all times when the

vehicle is loaded with the substances.

- Be conversant with the emergency procedures stipulated at Section 2 below.
- **Responsibilities of Vehicle Attendant**
 - Be the assistant to the driver in normal working conditions and in case of emergency.
 - Wear the protective clothing, such as goggles, rubber gloves and rubber boots etc. when loading and unloading the substances.
 - Be conversant with the emergency procedures stipulated at Section 2 below.
 - Be competent to use the fire extinguisher on board the vehicle.
- **Responsibilities of Vehicle Owner**
 - Ensure the vehicle is in sound mechanical condition and roadworthy.
 - Ensure the vehicle possesses a valid licence issued by the Transport Department.
 - Remind the vehicle driver not to load the vehicle exceeding its permitted gross vehicle weight and axle weight.
 - Advise the vehicle driver and attendant to observe the safety guidelines set out in this Code if knowing that the vehicle will be used to transport corrosive and poisonous substances.

Section 2 : Emergency Procedures

- Step 1** – Stop the vehicle at suitable location and switch off the engine.
- Step 2** – Prevent other vehicle from coming nearby the vehicle and warn any person in the vicinity.
- Step 3** – Dial 999.
- Step 4** – Use the fire extinguisher on board the vehicle to extinguish the fire, if not involved the substances and safe to do so.
- Step 5** – Provide information to firemen and policemen at scene.

Section 3 : Specimens of Prescribed Labels

The size of the following prescribed labels for corrosive and poisonous substances is to be not less than 100 x 100 mm.

LABEL D



Vermilion Red
Lettering on Write

LABEL D1



Vermilion Red
Lettering on Write

標籤 E



Vermilion Red
Lettering on Write

Section 4 : Enquiry

Enquiries on the contents of this Code of Practice for interim measures for conveyance of Categories 3 and 4 dangerous goods by vehicles should be directed to the Fire Protection Command Headquarters at the following address, telephone or facsimile:-

5/F, Fire Services Headquarters
Building,
1 Hong Chong Road,
Tsim Sha Tsui East,
Kowloon,
(Telephone: 2733 7605)
(Fax no.: 2723 2197)