

TITLE: STORAGE AND HANDLING – DANGEROUS GOODS	
Guideline Number: DG1900	Issue Date: 3 / October / 2007
Issue Status: 1.0	

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines on the storage and handling of dangerous goods in coastal buildings and environments.

As the quantities of dangerous goods stored by lifesaving/lifeguarding service organisations are generally below those outlined in Schedule 1 of the National Standard for the Storage and Handling of Workplace Dangerous Goods [NOHSC:1015 (2001)], the quantities are deemed to be minor. Therefore the National Code of Practice for the Storage and Handling of Workplace Dangerous Goods [NOHSC: 2017 (2001)], in particular Appendix 1 – Minor quantities, should be referred to.

SCOPE:

This Guideline applies to:

- Lifesavers, patrol captains/club captains and team leaders
- Lifeguards and lifeguard supervisors
- Coastal authorities and managers

GUIDELINE DESCRIPTION:

1.0 General

The responsible person should at first:

- a. evaluate whether the dangerous goods being stored and handled are necessary and cannot be replaced by other goods; and
- b. where practicable, ensure the quantity of dangerous goods is kept to a minimum consistent with the operation of the premises.

2.0 Labelling of substances

All substances should be clearly labelled. This will ensure the contents of a container can be readily identified, and alerts the person handling the substance to the hazards involved.

3.0 Chemical Register

3.1 All chemicals stored and/or in regular use at the lifesaving service should be recorded on the organisation’s Chemical Register. This includes cleaning products and chemicals used in the gear/boat sheds (see Guideline DG1911).

3.2 This register should be placed in a readily accessible and known location.

4.0 Material Safety Data Sheets

Up-to-date Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) should be available for each chemical used and/or stored on the premises. (See Guideline DG1912).

5.0 Storage of chemical substances

5.1 Provision needs to be made at each building for adequate and safe storage of chemical substances.

5.2 Fuels and other flammable chemicals require a dedicated storage facility.

5.3 Storage of all other chemicals will be determined by the directions provided on their individual MSDS.

'Fit for purpose containers' only are to be used. Under no circumstances should drink bottles, cups or other food utensils be used (even temporarily).

5.4 As a general rule, provisions should be made for:

- Secure storage – restricted access
- Segregation – separate incompatible chemicals
- Clear and compliant signage – Hazchem/Dangerous Goods requirements
- Spill and leak management – drip trays, spill kits, etc.
- Information provision – storage and handling signs, compatibility signs, MSDSs, emergency phone numbers
- Special storage provision – permitting storage of limited quantities of certain chemical classes (e.g. limited amount of class 3 flammable such as paint or methylated spirits may be stored in general chemical storage)
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) and first aid equipment, as required

5.5 Storage areas must be fit for purpose and take into account the wide range of members (including junior club members and children).

6.0 Fuel storage and handling

Petrol is both a Dangerous Good, Class 3 (flammable liquid) and a Packaging Group II substance under the Dangerous Goods legislation. (See Guideline DG1901 and appropriate Codes of Practice or Australian Standards, e.g. AS 1940 for information and guidance.)

7.0 Spillage control and clean-up

7.1 Spillage containment would not normally be required for minor quantities unless the quantity of dangerous goods which could spill on any one occasion is such that dangerous goods could flow to other parts of the premises or beyond the premises.

7.2 However, where provided, spillage containment should have a capacity sufficient to contain the maximum foreseeable size of dangerous goods spillage in the area.

7.3 Where there is a risk arising from the potential flow of dangerous goods to other parts of the premises, or if they could flow beyond the premises, the flow should be prevented from reaching any protected works, watercourse or the property boundary by such means as kerbing, bunding, provision of channels or utilising the slope of the land.

8.0 Personal protective equipment

8.1 PPE and clothing suitable for the goods being handled should be used or worn as appropriate when people are handling dangerous goods.

8.2 The occupier should ensure PPE and clothing provided is periodically checked and maintained in sound operating condition.

9.0 Clear escape

Dangerous goods should not be stored or handled where they could hinder escape from the building or area in the event of a fire, spill or leak.

10.0 Fire prevention and protection

10.1 Areas in which dangerous goods are stored or handled should be kept clear of combustible matter and refuse. In the case of storage or work outdoors, the ground around the area should be cleared of combustible vegetation for a distance of at least 3 m.

10.2 A supply of water should be available at a nearby location for personal hygiene and emergency use. In addition to the building fire protection installations, portable fire extinguishers appropriate to the type and quantity of dangerous goods being stored and handled should be located at or near to the place where the dangerous goods are stored or handled.

10.3 All fire protection equipment should be maintained in an operable condition.

11.0 Emergency procedures

The occupier should ensure that suitable emergency procedures are established for responding to all foreseeable emergencies relating to dangerous goods.

DEFINITIONS:

Dangerous goods means 'goods that are classified on the basis of immediate physical or chemical effects, such as fire, explosion, corrosion and poisoning, affecting property, the environment or people (e.g. petrol, pool chlorine)'.

Hazardous substances means 'substances that are classified on the basis of health effects (whether immediate or long-term)'.

Minor quantities of dangerous goods means 'aggregate quantities less than those listed in Schedule 1 of the National Standard for the Storage and Handling of Workplace Dangerous Goods [NOHSC:1015 (2001)]'.

REFERENCES:

AS 1940 – 2004 The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids

Australian Coastal Public Safety Guidelines

- DG1901: Fuel storage and handling
- DG1910: Dangerous goods register
- DG1911: Chemical substances register
- DG1912: Provision and use of Material Safety Data Sheets

- DG1913: Incident investigation and reporting

Code of Practice for the Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods, Victoria, December 2000.

National Code of Practice for the Storage and Handling of Workplace Dangerous Goods [NOHSC: 2017 (2001)], National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, Australian Government, 2001.

National Code of Practice for the Storage and Handling of Workplace Dangerous Goods [NOHSC: 2017 (2001)], Appendix 1 Minor quantities, National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, Australian Government, 2001.

National Standard for the Storage and Handling of Workplace Dangerous Goods [NOHSC: 1015 (2001)], National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, Australian Government, 2001.

APPENDICES:

Nil