Information sheet

Legislative amendments for minimising tyre fires when transporting ammonium nitrate explosion risk goods

This information sheet summarises the amendments to the Dangerous Goods Safety (Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007 (the Transport Regulations) that will take effect from 18 April 2025.

The amendments support the implementation of the approved code of practice *Minimising the risk of tyre fires when transporting ammonium nitrate explosion risk goods* (the Code).

Background

On 24 October 2022, a road tanker carrying ammonium nitrate emulsion (ANE) exploded on the Great Central Road, east of Laverton. An investigation report into the incident made 16 recommendations to improve the safe transport of ANE and similar products.

Based on the recommendations, the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (the department) developed the Code and drafted supporting legislation to mandate its implementation.

The Code was approved and gazetted by the Minister under Section 20 of the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004* on 9 December 2024. It provides guidance on the safe road transport of 'ammonium nitrate (AN) explosion risk goods', addressing tyre fire risk controls not included in other approved codes of practice.

To legislate compliance with the approved Code, amendments to the Transport Regulations were introduced in the Dangerous Goods Safety Regulations Amendment Regulations 2024 (the Amendment Regulations). The Amendment Regulations were published on 18 December 2024 and will come into operation on 18 April 2025.

Scope and application of *Minimising the risk of tyre fires when transporting ammonium nitrate explosion risk goods: Code of practice*

The Code applies to the transport of AN explosion risk goods on public roads within WA. It is intended to be read by prime contractors, owners and drivers of vehicles that transport the following placard loads of AN explosion risk goods:

- ammonium nitrate – UN 1942 and UN 2067
- ammonium nitrate emulsion or suspension or gel – UN 3375
- ammonium nitrate, liquid (hot concentrated solution) – UN 2426.

The Code imparts duties and requirements when transporting AN explosion risk goods that are in addition to the existing requirements of the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail (the ADG Code), including:

- additional fire fighting equipment required (Section 2 of the Code)
- additional driver instruction and training required (Section 3 of the Code)
- temperature monitoring equipment for tyre assemblies required (Section 4 of the Code).

Amendments to the Dangerous Goods Safety (Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007

The new version of the Transport Regulations to be published on 18 April 2025 will include several amendments. The Code provides guidance to be able to comply with the additional requirements of the amended Transport Regulations.

Regulation 4A: Meaning of ammonium nitrate explosion risk goods

This introduces ‘ammonium nitrate explosion risk goods’ as a new term in the Transport Regulations. It aligns with the definition of the term in Section 1.1 of the Code.

Regulation 14A: Transport of ammonium nitrate explosion risk goods — instruction and training

This requires any person transporting a placard load of AN explosion risk goods by road to have received appropriate instruction and training in the use of:

- additional fire fighting equipment required by regulation 165
- temperature monitoring equipment required by regulation 170A.

Compliance with regulation 14A can be achieved with guidance from Section 3 of the Code.

Regulations 163 to 165

This requires owners, prime contractors, and drivers to ensure any road vehicle being used to transport a placard load containing AN explosion risk goods is equipped with additional fire fighting equipment.

The required fire fighting equipment is additional to the fire extinguishers and other equipment required by part 12 of the ADG Code. The additional fire fighting equipment must be suitable and operational at all times.

Compliance with regulations 163 to 165 can be achieved with guidance from Section 2 of the Code.

Regulation 170A: Temperature monitoring — ammonium nitrate explosion risk goods

This requires a driver of a road vehicle transporting a placard load containing ammonium nitrate explosion risk goods to adequately monitor the temperature of all readily accessible tyres or wheel hubs on that vehicle at relevant times.

Temperature records must be readily legible, retained for 3 months after a consignment has been delivered, and must be able to be produced at the request of a DGO during that time.

Compliance with regulation 170A can be achieved with guidance from Section 4 of the Code.