

## The Shipment of Dangerous Goods — Questions and Answers

### ***Q. What are dangerous goods?***

**A.** A wide variety of articles and substances, ranging from common household items to industrial materials, are regulated in transportation due to their potential to injure people or damage property when handled improperly. Such articles and substances include but are not limited to:

- Explosives – eg., fireworks, ammunition, bombs, etc.
- Gases – eg., gas cylinders, aerosols under pressure, lighters, butane, etc.
- Flammable Solids or Liquids – eg., paints or solvents, matches, etc.
- Oxidisers or Organic Peroxides – eg., chemical oxygen generators, hydrogen peroxide, etc.
- Toxic Materials – eg., pesticides, fungicides, poisons, etc.
- Infectious Substances – eg., blood samples from infected patients – either humans or animals, etc.
- Radioactive Materials – eg., radioactive medicines
- Corrosive Materials – eg., drain cleaners, car batteries, concentrated cleaners, repair kits, etc.
- Other items regulated due to irritating fumes – eg., dry ice, pepper spray, etc.

### ***Q. How are Dangerous Goods regulated?***

**A.** Within New Zealand, these articles and substances come under the Civil Aviation Rule Part 92, Carriage of Dangerous Goods. Internationally, such articles and substances are governed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air. Many users rely on the International Air Transport (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations, which contain the ICAO Technical Instruction requirements, together with airline industry conventions.

### ***Q. What do these regulations require from the shipper or sender?***

**A.** In broad outline, Civil Aviation Rule Part 92 requires compliance with the ICAO Technical Instructions.

- Articles and substances must be properly classified according to a set of standard criteria.
- The packaging used for dangerous goods must meet certain criteria set by the Technical Instructions.
- The hazards posed by these articles and substances must be identified by markings, package labels and accompanying documentation.
- An airline must have the opportunity to inspect and verify the acceptability of each dangerous goods package as declared by the shipper.

***Q. If I purchased something from a store, do I need to follow these requirements?***

**A.** Yes. Just because you are sending a product that is sold in a store does not mean that it is excepted from the dangerous goods requirements. For example, many common household items can be dangerous: matches, aerosol spray cans, flammable paints or solvents, rat or mouse poison, pesticides, car batteries, etc.

It is always the obligation of the person who offers the article or substance for transport by air to make sure the items they send are correctly prepared and identified to the airline. If necessary, contact the manufacturer of the item to discuss proper transportation procedures. Remember the rules governing air transportation of dangerous goods are the strictest of all transport modes.

***Q. What happens if I do not follow the rules?***

**A.** In the most serious cases, improperly prepared or undeclared dangerous goods can kill and injure people, such as airline passengers, airline employees, and others — and have actually done so. Think Safety before you send dangerous goods by air.

Also, governments can assess significant penalties for violating the rules. New Zealand law allows civil penalties of \$5000.00 per violation for an individual, and \$30,000.00 per violation for an organisation.

***Q. Is it safe to assume that an item I receive from another company or through the mail order catalogue can be shipped by air without special preparation?***

**A.** Never assume. It is possible that an article or substance is not regulated in one mode (eg. ground transport) but is regulated by air. It is also possible that your supplier was not fully aware of the rules. Remember: when you offer an article or substance for carriage by air, you have the responsibility for compliance.

***Q. How is a person supposed to know all these requirements for dangerous goods?***

**A.** Compliance with the Rules includes satisfying the Civil Aviation Authority's requirement for training in the shipment of dangerous goods. The Rules requires all regular shippers (senders) and airlines (carriers) of dangerous goods to be trained. There are three types of training required:

- General awareness or familiarisation training
- Job specific training
- Safety training

For the general public, this requirement means that anyone who prepares or sends a shipment of dangerous goods on a regular basis must comply with the training requirements.

**Q. *Where can I find out more about the Rules?***

**A.** Civil Aviation Rule Part 92 may be purchased from:

The Colour Guy  
Lower Hutt.

Ph: 0800 GET RULES  
0800 438 785

Alternatively, a copy may be obtained from the Civil Aviation Authority Web site at <http://www.caa.govt.nz>

International regulations are available from the following sources:

ICAO Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air

Document Sales  
International Civil Aviation Organisation  
999 University Street  
Montreal, Quebec H3C 5H7

Ph: (514) 954-8022

IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations

International Air Transport Association  
800 Place Victoria  
Montreal, Quebec H4Z 1M1

Ph: (514) 874-0202

**Q. *Do all airline operators allow shipments of dangerous goods?***

**A.** No. You need to contact any airline you wish to use to confirm the exact details of their services. Not all airlines carry dangerous goods, and many airlines that do transport such items may impose more restrictive or additional requirements for such shipments. For these reasons, it is essential that you know the requirements of the airline you select.

**Q. *As a Passenger, must I comply with the same rules?***

**A.** Yes. There are, however, some exceptions that will allow you to carry certain dangerous goods in your carry on or checked baggage. Details of these items may be found in the CAA Website under "Aerodromes – Safety – Dangerous Goods – Information for Passengers"