

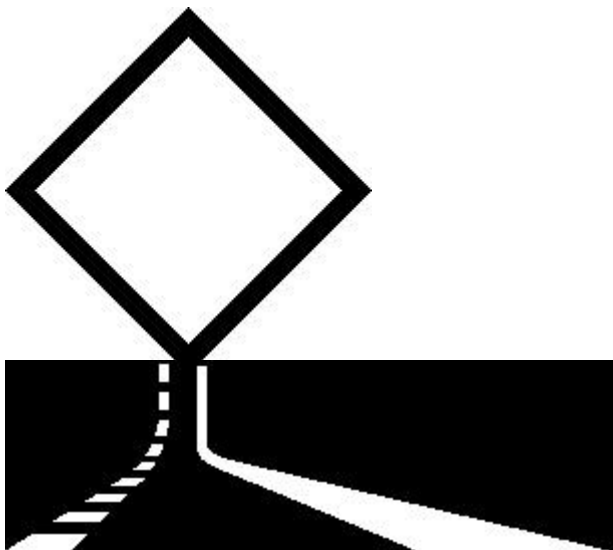
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**A Technical Publication  
from the Co-ordination  
and Information Centre**

## **Reporting an Accidental Release of Dangerous Goods**

November 2009

**Dangerous Goods  
And Rail Safety**



**Government  
of Alberta** ■  
Transportation

This material is meant as a guide to certain parts of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations and is not meant to be a substitute for them. It is the responsibility of handlers, offerers and transporters of dangerous goods to consult the Regulations for the exact requirements. The Coordination and Information Centre of Alberta Transportation can provide accurate information regarding the Regulations 24 hours a day.

**Co-ordination and Information Centre**

**Alberta Transportation  
Dangerous Goods and Rail Safety Branch  
Main Floor, Twin Atria Building  
4999 – 98 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta, T6B 2X3**

**Tel. Edmonton: (780) 422 – 9600  
Tel. Province-wide: 1 (800) 272 – 9600  
Fax: (780) 427 – 1044**

**These telephone lines are recorded to assist in responding to the emergency (natural/manmade) and/or inquiry regarding dangerous goods and to ensure that the information is accurate. Direct any questions regarding the recording to the Compliance Officer responding to your call or contact the Manager of the CIC at 780-427-8660. *Legal Authority: Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Act, Section 13(1).***

## INTRODUCTION

The federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Regulations regulates the transportation of dangerous goods for the road, rail, air and marine transport modes.

The purpose of the TDG legislation is to reduce the risk to emergency response personnel, the public and the environment. One secondary objective is to collect data on accidents which involve dangerous goods either directly or indirectly. This data will allow the measurement of the influence of this legislation on safety.

Part 8 of the TDG Regulations details the situations and requirements for reporting of specific events involving dangerous goods. These are briefly discussed in this document. Specific sections of the Regulations have been referenced.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Alberta Transportation, Dangerous Goods and Rail Safety Branch, Co-ordination and Information Centre (CIC) at (780) 422-9600 (in the Edmonton area) or at 1-800-272-9600 (toll free within Alberta). The CIC operates a 24-hour service.

## DEFINITIONS

Part 1 of the TDG Regulations contain the following definitions for accidental release and imminent accidental release:

**Accidental Release** means, in relation to dangerous goods, an unplanned or accidental

- (a) discharge, emission, explosion, outgassing or other escape of dangerous goods, or any component or compound evolving from dangerous goods; or
- (b) emission of ionizing radiation that exceeds a level established under the "Nuclear Safety and Control Act".

**Imminent Accidental Release** means, for dangerous goods in transport in a large means of containment, that there has been an incident and

- (a) there is likely a need to remove or transfer all or a portion of the dangerous goods to another large means of containment;
- (b) there is damage to the means of containment which, if not corrected, could result in an accidental release of the dangerous goods in a quantity or emission level that exceeds those set out in the table to subsection 8.1(1) of Part 8, Accidental Release and Imminent Accidental Release Report Requirements, or
- (c) the large means of containment is lost in navigable waters.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

In case of an accidental release or an imminent accidental release of dangerous goods, the person who has possession of the dangerous goods must report immediately. An immediate report is required for an imminent accidental release or when the quantities of dangerous goods released exceed the amounts set out in the following table (Section 8.1). The immediate report must be made if either the primary or subsidiary class exceeds the amount indicated in the table for that class.

### Quantities or Levels for Immediate Reporting

Class	Quantity
1	Any quantity that: a) could pose a danger to public safety or 50 kg; or b) is included in Class 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 or 1.5 and is: i) not subject to special provision 85 or 86 but exceeds 10 kg net explosives quantity; or ii) subject to special provision 85 or 86 and the number of articles exceeds 1000.
2	Any quantity that could pose a danger to public safety or any sustained release of 10 minutes or more
3	200 L
4	25 kg
5.1	50 kg or 50 L
5.2	1 kg or 1 L
6.1	5 kg or 5 L
6.2	Any quantity
7	Any quantity that could pose a danger to public safety; or  an emission level greater than the level established in section 20 of the <i>Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substances Regulations</i> .
8	5 kg or 5 L
9	25 kg or 25 L

For air transport, a person who has possession of dangerous goods at the time a “dangerous goods accident” or a “dangerous goods incident”, as defined in the *ICAO Technical Instructions*, occurs on board an aircraft, in an aerodrome or at an air cargo facility must immediately report it to the persons listed in Section 8.1(5) of the TDG Regulations [Section 8.1(2)].

In the event of an imminent accidental release of dangerous goods, a person who has possession of the dangerous goods at the time of the imminent accidental release must immediately report it to the persons listed in Section 8.1(5) of the TDG Regulations. An immediate report of an imminent accidental release is considered to be an immediate report for any subsequent accidental release [Section 8.1(3)].

### **WHO MUST BE NOTIFIED**

Section 8.1(5) of the TDG Regulations states that the following organizations must be notified by the person who must make an immediate report:

- (a) the appropriate provincial authority listed in the table following this section. *In Alberta, notify the local police, and Alberta Transportation at 1-800-272-9600.;*
- (b) the person’s employer;
- (c) the consignor of the dangerous goods;
- (d) for a road vehicle, the owner, lessee or charterer of the road vehicle;
- (e) for a railway vehicle, CANUTEC at (613) 996-6666;
- (f) for a ship, CANUTEC at (613) 996-6666, a Vessel Traffic Services Centre or a Canadian Coast Guard radio station;
- (g) for an aircraft, an aerodrome or an air cargo facility, CANUTEC at (613) 996-6666 and the nearest Regional Civil Aviation Office of the Department of Transport and, if the aerodrome is an airport, the operator of the airport;
- (h) for Class 1, Explosives, and Class 6.2, Infectious Substances, CANUTEC at (613) 996-6666; and
- (i) for an accidental release from a cylinder that has suffered a catastrophic failure, CANUTEC at (613) 996-6666.

**Immediate Reporting  
Provincial Authority**

*When a report is made directly to the local police, it is expected that they will inform the local fire department.*

<b>Province</b>	<b>Authority</b>
Alberta	the local police and the appropriate provincial authority at 1-800-272-9600
British Columbia	the local police and the Provincial Emergency Program at 1-800-663-3456
Manitoba	the Department of Conservation at (204) 945-4888 and either the local police or the fire department
New Brunswick	the local police or 1-800-565-1633
Newfoundland	the local police and the Canadian Coast Guard at (709) 772-2083;
Northwest Territories	the appropriate authorities at (867) 920-8130
Nova Scotia	the local police or 1-800-565-1633 or (902) 426-6030
Nunavut Territory	the local police and the Nunavut Emergency Services at 1-800-693-1666
Ontario	the local police
Prince Edward Island	the local police or 1-800-565-1633
Quebec	the local police
Saskatchewan	the local police or 1-800-667-7525
Yukon Territory	the appropriate authorities at (867) 667-7244

## IMMEDIATE REPORTING INFORMATION

The immediate report must include as much of the following information as is known at the time of the report. The information required is described below (Section 8.2).

- (a) the shipping name or UN number of the dangerous goods;
- (b) the quantity of dangerous goods that
  - (i) was in the means of containment before the accidental release, the “dangerous goods accident” or the “dangerous goods incident”, and
  - (ii) is known or suspected to have been released;
- (c) a description of the condition of the means of containment from which the dangerous goods were released, including details as to whether the conditions of transport were normal when the means of containment failed;
- (d) for an accidental release from a cylinder that has suffered a catastrophic failure, a description of the failure;
- (e) the location of the accidental release, the “dangerous goods accident” or the “dangerous goods incident”;
- (f) for a ship, the position of the ship and the next location at which the ship will be at anchor or alongside a fixed facility;
- (g) the number of deaths and injuries resulting from the accidental release, the “dangerous goods accident” or the “dangerous goods incident”; and
- (h) an estimate of the number of people evacuated from private residences, public areas or public buildings as a result of the accidental release, the “dangerous goods accident” or the “dangerous goods incident”.

A report can also include other information not required by the regulations; for example, any cleanup arrangements, involvement of other emergency response agencies like the police, fire department, Alberta Environment, etc.

### 30-DAY FOLLOW-UP REPORT

If an immediate report was required to be made for an accidental release, a “dangerous goods accident” or a “dangerous goods incident”, a follow-up report must be made by the employer of the person who had possession of the dangerous goods at the time of the accidental release, or by the person if self-employed [Section 8.3(1)].

The follow-up report must be made, in writing, to the Director General of Transport of Dangerous Goods within 30 days after the occurrence of the accidental release. The follow-up report must include information described below [Section 8.3(2)].

- (a) the name and address of the place of business of the person providing the information and the telephone number, including the area code, at which that person may be contacted;
- (b) the date, time and location of the accidental release, the “dangerous goods accident” or the “dangerous goods incident”;
- (c) the name and address of the place of business of the consignor;
- (d) the classification of the dangerous goods;
- (e) the estimated quantity of dangerous goods released and the total quantity of dangerous goods in the means of containment before the accidental release, the “dangerous goods accident” or the “dangerous goods incident”;
- (f) a description of the means of containment involved based on the identification markings and a description of the failure or damage to the means of containment, including how the failure or damage occurred;
- (g) for an accidental release from a cylinder that has suffered a catastrophic failure, the certification safety marks and a description of the failure;
- (h) the number of deaths and injuries resulting from the accidental release, the “dangerous goods accident” or the “dangerous goods incident”;
- (i) an estimate of the number of people evacuated from private residences, public areas or public buildings; and
- (j) if an emergency response assistance plan was activated, the name of the person who responded to the emergency in accordance with the emergency response assistance plan.

The address for the Director General is:

**Transport Dangerous Goods (TDG)  
Place de Ville, Tower C  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 330 Sparks St.  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5**