
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1996 No. 2095

The Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Regulations 1996

PART V

LOADING AND UNLOADING

Loading, stowage, unloading and cleaning of containers, tanks and vehicles

19.—(1) The operator and any other person engaged in the carriage of dangerous goods shall take such steps as it is reasonable for them respectively to take to ensure that nothing in the manner in which dangerous goods are loaded, stowed or unloaded from any container, tank or vehicle is liable to create a significant risk or significantly increase any existing risk to the health or safety of any person arising out of the presence of those goods.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the operator of any container, tank or vehicle and the driver of any vehicle which is being used for the carriage of dangerous goods shall ensure that—

- (a) the provisions contained in paragraphs (3) to (9) are complied with; and
- (b) any requirements specified in Schedule 11 relating to those goods are complied with.

(3) The various components of any load comprising dangerous goods shall be properly stowed and secured by appropriate means to prevent them from being significantly displaced in relation to each other and to the sides of the vehicle.

(4) Where dangerous goods have escaped from any package into a container or vehicle in which they are being carried, the container or vehicle concerned shall be cleaned as soon as possible and in any case before re-loading.

(5) Containers and vehicles which have been used for the carriage of dangerous goods in bulk shall be properly cleaned before re-loading unless the new load consists of dangerous goods with the same designation as the preceding load.

(6) No person shall smoke either in the vicinity of or inside vehicles which are being used for the carriage of dangerous goods, during loading and unloading operations.

(7) Where dangerous goods with a flash-point of 61°C or below are carried in a tank—

- (a) a good electrical connection from the vehicle chassis to earth shall be established before the tank is filled or emptied; and
- (b) the rate of filling of the tank shall be limited so as to prevent an electrostatic discharge of such energy as is likely to cause ignition of any flammable vapour present.

(8) Except where the engine has to be used to drive the pumps or other appliances for loading or unloading the vehicle, the vehicle's engine shall be shut off during loading and unloading operations.

(9) No tank or compartment thereof shall be overfilled with dangerous goods and for the purposes of this paragraph "overfilled" means filled beyond a safe level.

(10) Subject to paragraph (11), the driver of any vehicle which is being used for the carriage of dangerous goods in a tank shall ensure, so far as is practicable, that—

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- (a) all openings in the tank; and
 - (b) where any discharge or filling opening in the tank is fitted with one or more valves or is fitted with a cap, all such valves and that cap,
- are securely closed prior to the commencement of and throughout the journey.
- (11) Nothing in paragraph (10) shall be taken as permitting the proper functioning of any safety device to be compromised.