

DANGEROUS GOODS GUIDELINES

Guidance for clients shipping hazardous or regulated cargo with SMA Logistics.



1. Purpose

Dangerous goods (DG) require specific classification, packaging, documentation, and handling to move legally and safely by road. This guide explains what clients need to prepare before booking a DG shipment with SMA Logistics, and what our team manages on your behalf.

Undeclared or misdeclared dangerous goods is a serious safety and legal risk. It is the shipper's legal responsibility to correctly classify and declare hazardous cargo. SMA Logistics will refuse to transport any shipment that is not properly declared.

2. The Nine UN Hazard Classes

Every dangerous goods consignment must be classified against one of the following internationally recognised classes before it can be booked:

Class	Category	Typical Examples
1	Explosives	Fireworks, ammunition, blasting agents
2	Gases	LPG, oxygen cylinders, aerosols, refrigerant gas
3	Flammable Liquids	Petrol, diesel, paints, solvents, ethanol
4	Flammable Solids	Matches, certain metal powders, self-reactive substances
5	Oxidising Substances & Organic Peroxides	Ammonium nitrate, pool chlorine, peroxides
6	Toxic & Infectious Substances	Pesticides, certain lab/medical samples
7	Radioactive Material	Medical isotopes, industrial radiography sources
8	Corrosives	Battery acid, caustic soda, industrial cleaning agents
9	Miscellaneous Dangerous Goods	Lithium batteries, dry ice, environmentally hazardous substances

3. Required Documentation

Before collection, clients must supply:

- Dangerous Goods Declaration — signed by the shipper, confirming correct classification and packaging.
- Safety Data Sheet (SDS) — current version, for every hazardous substance in the shipment.
- UN Number and Proper Shipping Name for each substance.
- Emergency Contact Information — a 24-hour contact who can advise in the event of an incident.
- Applicable permits — e.g. explosives licence, radioactive material transport permit, where relevant.

4. Packaging & Labelling Requirements

- Packaging must be UN-approved and rated for the specific hazard class and quantity being carried.

- Each package must display the correct hazard diamond/label, UN number, and orientation arrows where applicable.
- Incompatible substances (e.g. oxidisers and flammables) may not be loaded together in the same load unit.
- Placarding of the vehicle must match the load's hazard class(es) for the duration of the trip.

5. Vehicle & Driver Requirements

- Vehicles used for DG transport are inspected and fitted with required safety equipment (fire extinguishers, spill kits, placards, PPE).
- Drivers hold a valid Dangerous Goods driving permit/certificate appropriate to the class being carried.
- Drivers carry Emergency Response documentation (e.g. Emergency Information/Tremcard) for the specific cargo on board.
- Route planning avoids restricted zones (e.g. tunnels, populated areas) where required by regulation.

6. Emergency Procedures

In the event of a spill, leak, fire, or accident involving dangerous goods, SMA Logistics drivers and operations staff follow a defined response protocol:

- Secure the area and assess whether it is safe to intervene.
- Contact emergency services and the SMA Logistics 24-hour operations line immediately.
- Refer to the Emergency Information/Tremcard for substance-specific response guidance.
- Notify the client and relevant regulatory authority as required by law.

7. Client Responsibilities Summary

Responsibility	Owner
Correct classification of goods	Client / Shipper
Supplying valid SDS and DG Declaration	Client / Shipper
UN-approved packaging and labelling	Client / Shipper
Compliant vehicle, placarding, and driver certification	SMA Logistics
Route planning and emergency response coordination	SMA Logistics

8. Before You Book

Please contact our operations team ahead of booking any dangerous goods shipment so we can confirm classification, required documentation, and vehicle availability for your specific cargo and route.

This guide is intended as a general overview and does not replace applicable national or international dangerous goods regulations. SMA Logistics will confirm the exact requirements for your shipment prior to transport.