

The Armorgard

guide to handling and transporting COSHH goods



...industry insights from Armorgard

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» Why you should read this

If you transport fuel-powered equipment, tools or machinery; or need to move gases or chemicals as part of your job; the risk from a road traffic accident is potentially much higher than for a normal road user. If the goods you are carrying are dangerous, there is a risk of spillage that could result in fire, explosion, chemical burn or environmental damage.

If you are a welder or a mechanic you may carry acetylene, PG or other gases. If you are a landscaper or arboriculture consultant; grounds maintenance or gardener; you may carry fertilisers, petrol, pesticides and other chemicals that would be classified as dangerous goods. If you are a building contractor, you may carry fuel to power your hand held tools. All of these substances need careful storage in appropriate containers and extra care is needed when moving them between sites.

Keep your goods and yourself safe

You need to understand the dangers, the regulations and how you can keep your goods and yourself safe. Carriage, use and storage of all these substances is covered by rules and regulations designed to protect you and others you may come into contact with.



The facts

- Every year **thousands of workers are made ill** by hazardous substances
- **Dangerous substances**—any liquid, gas or solid that poses a risk to workers' health or safety—can be found in nearly all workplaces
- Across Europe, **millions of workers** come into contact with chemical and biological agents that can harm them
- In a recent survey, **17% of workers** in the EU reported being **exposed to chemical products or substances** for at least a quarter of their working time
- **15% reported breathing in smoke, fumes, powder or dust** at work
- The health problems that can be caused by working with dangerous substances range from mild **eye and skin irritation to severe effects, such as birth defects and cancer**
- Effects can be **acute or long-term**, and exposure to some substances can have a cumulative effect

The law

There are regulations covering the carriage of dangerous goods. Their aim is to protect everyone directly involved and people who may become involved (i.e. members of the emergency services and the public). The Regulations are designed to minimise the risk of accidents and ensure that if there is an incident, it can be dealt with effectively. **The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations (CDG) and a European agreement (ADR)** regulate the carriage of dangerous goods by road.

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"Their aim is to protect everyone directly involved and people who may become involved..."

Acetylene, LPG and other flammable gases that are commonly carried by tradesmen such as welders and mechanics are subject to the following parts of the **ADR regulations**:

Parts of the ADR regulations cover the carriage of dangerous goods by road

ADR Regulations for carrying hazardous goods

Driver

Must complete special safety training and keep a training record

Vehicle

Must have at least one 2kg dry powder fire extinguisher, kept in good working order

Goods

The dangerous goods must be properly stowed

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) place duties on employers and workers to prevent or control exposure.

» There are specific regulations relating to lead and asbestos. For information see:

- www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/

What you can do

Visit appropriate websites and familiarise yourself with your duties and responsibilities (see resources and further information on page 9).

Store your chemicals and other hazardous substances in accordance with COSHH guidelines

Storing flammable liquids

Flashpoint of up to 60°C no more than 250 litres

Flashpoint below the max ambient temperature of the room no more than 50 litres of highly flammable liquids

Store in designated, clear, well-ventilated areas

Store separately from other hazardous substances

Store limited quantities of flammable liquids in fire resistant cabinets

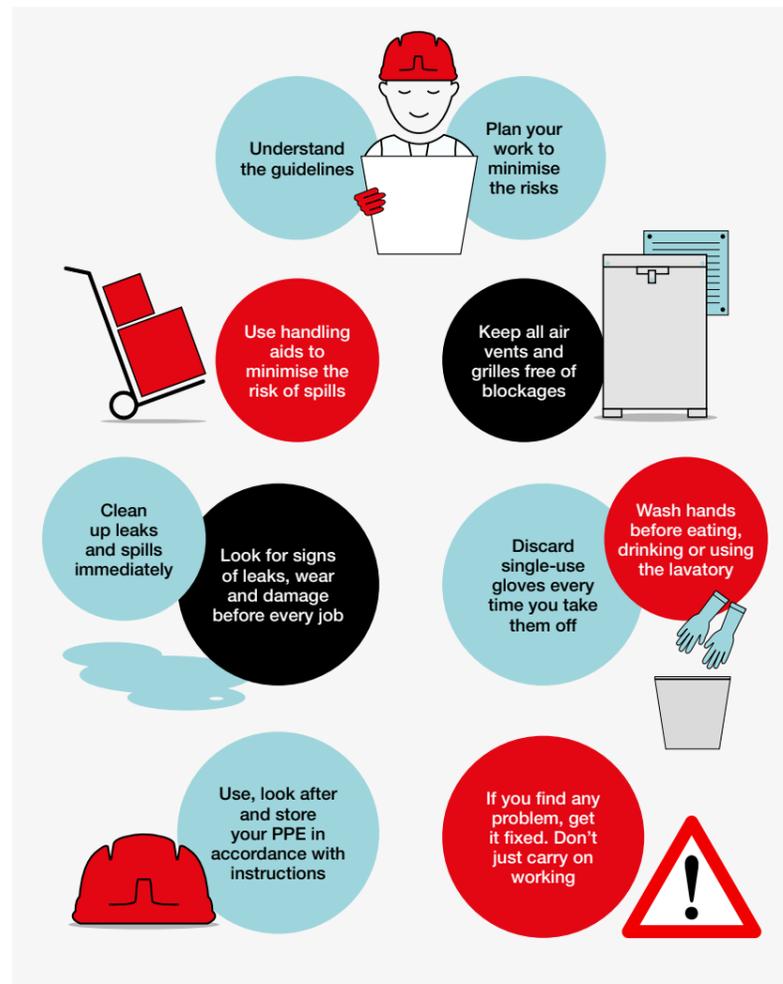
- A limited quantity of flammable liquids in suitable closed vessels may be stored in suitable fire-resistant cabinets or bins. These should be designed to retain spills (capacity should be 110% of the volume of the largest container, or 25% of the overall capacity – whichever is greater).
- Cabinets or bins should be located in designated well-ventilated areas that are away from the immediate processing area where possible.
- Flammable liquids should be stored separately from other dangerous substances that may increase the risk of fire or compromise the integrity of the container or cabinet, such as oxidizers and corrosive materials.
- Store no more than 50 litres of highly flammable liquids and flammable liquids with a flashpoint below the maximum ambient temperature of the workroom/working area.
- Store no more than 250 litres of other flammable liquids with a higher flashpoint of up to 60°C.

What are the requirements for fire-resistant cupboards and bins?

These criteria are the minimum performance requirements for compliance with current legislation:

- The materials used to form the sides, top, bottom, door(s) and lid should be capable of **providing the required fire resistance** (i.e. 30 minutes' integrity) and reaction to fire (i.e. minimal risk)
- The joints between the sides, top and bottom of cupboards and bins should be **free from openings or gaps**
- The lid/doors should be **close-fitting** against the frame of the bin/ cupboard such that there is a nominal overlap between the frame and lid/doors in their closed position
- The supports and fastenings should be of a material with a **melting point greater than 750°C**

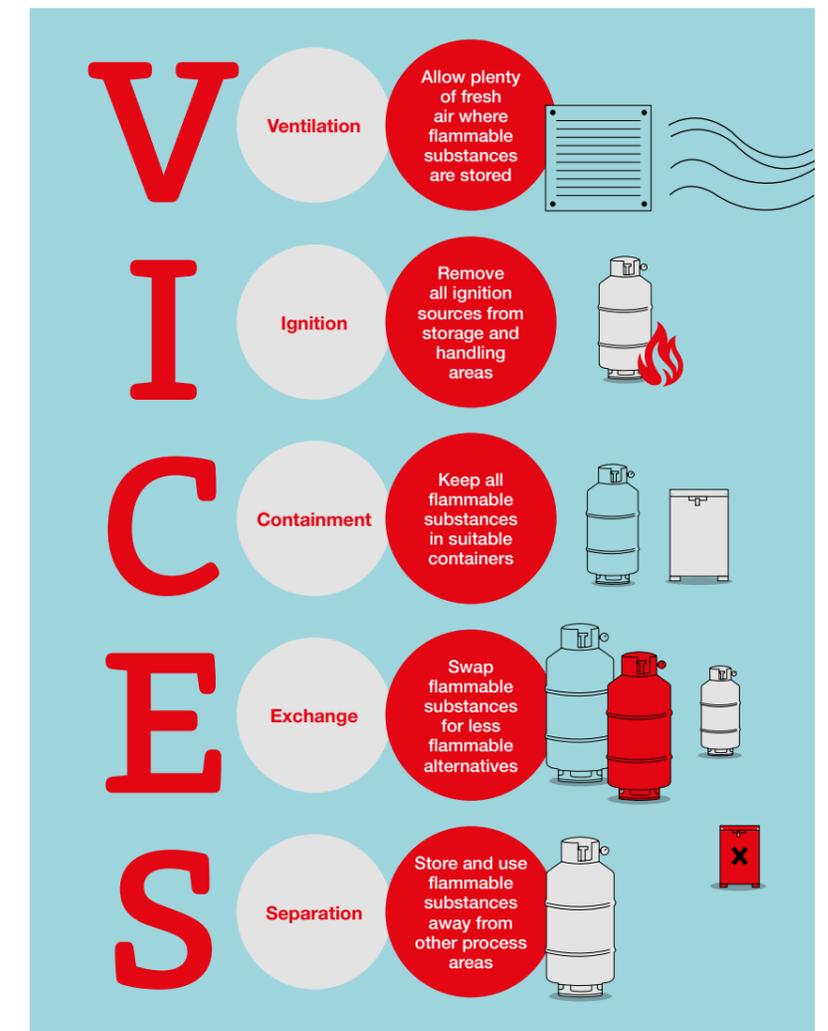
Keep yourself and your workspace safe



When storing hazardous goods you should:

- **Restrict access** to the chemical store
- Provide a **well-lit, ventilated store with sufficient, organised space**
- The store should have an **impervious floor** that is resistant to the chemicals used and is easy to clean
- Store incompatible materials safely. Define areas with **clear signs**
- Keep tanks and containers in **defined, bunded areas**
- **Label** tote tanks, containers and lines clearly
- Provide bulk storage with **dust filtration** or air cleaning for displaced air
- Provide **explosion relief** where necessary
- **Vent air** displaced from bulk liquids to a safe place
- **Segregate vehicle routes from walkways**, where possible
- **Eliminate or control ignition** sources

Use the VICES safety principles to keep yourself and your working environment safe



Equipment that can help

Armorgard provides a wide range of hazardous goods storage solutions including:

transbank™

The cost-effective secure container for storing hazardous fuels and chemicals.



transbank chem™

The safe vault for storage and transportation of smaller volumes of chemicals.



flamstor cabinet™

Secure storage cabinet that keeps your hazardous substances safe, organised and accessible.



Equipment that can help



Looking for more Armorgard products?
Visit armorgard.co.uk for more information



flambank™

The ultra-tough, lockable vault for storing hazardous chemicals and flammables.



chembank™

The high security lockable vault for the safe storage of chemicals.



gorilla gas cage™

The unique galvanized security cage specially designed for storing gas cylinders.



» Resources and further help

- www.hse.gov.uk
- www.osha.europa.eu/en/themes/dangerous-substances

The storage and transportation of hazardous goods is subject to many regulations. We would recommend that you seek advice from the Health and Safety Inspectorate, your local fire officer, trading standards office, or other qualified body. Operators are fully responsible for carrying out their own risk assessment for the hazardous goods that they are storing. Armorgard Ltd is not an adviser on the storage of goods and can take no liability for any storage situation.

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For further information and help on this topic and to find out about training options please call 023 9238 0280 or email safety@armorgard.co.uk

