

TRANSPORTING FUEL AND OTHER FLAMMABLES

The purpose of the regulations dealing with the carriage of dangerous goods is to protect everyone either directly involved, or who might become involved, such as members of the emergency services or public. Regulations place duties on everyone involved in the carriage of dangerous goods, to ensure that they know what they have to do to minimise the risk of incidents and guarantee an effective response.

Regulations regarding purchasing, transporting and storing fuel are becoming much more stringent. The following guidelines are for businesses transporting flammables

FILLING UP CONTAINERS AT PETROL STATIONS

All petrol stations are under licence to supply fuel, very similar to alcohol licence. If they are caught breaching these licences they could lose their right to supply fuel. By law, the only type of can which can be filled up is one approved to UN1203. Most petrol stations have restrictions in place now which prevents any more than 2 cans being filled in one visit. Typical containers purchased from car accessory shops may not be so approved.

TRANSPORTING FUEL IN APPROVED CONTAINERS

Ensure that you do not carry over the maximum allowed by law, without having an ADR licence. This is 333 litres, but HSE will always look at the amount you should have 'reasonably been carrying' if you are involved in an accident. A typical case of transporting fuel would be with 2 or 3 jerry cans. Providing those cans are UN approved, marked UN1203 and labelled with the flammable diamond, the only requirements by law are:

- Driver training in accordance with ADR1.3
- Carry 2kg fire extinguisher
- Stow the jerry cans securely to avoid damage or loss from the vehicle

The HSE class vans as 'workplaces' during the working day. If a vehicle is involved in an accident, not only do the above regulations come into force, but also The Health and Safety at Work Act. This involves safe storage of the fuel cans, and requires that they are stored in secure lockable vented containers.





There is also the risk of spillage of goods, which could lead to fire, explosion or environmental damage. It is highly recommended that an absorbent spill kit is kept on board every vehicle carrying any form of dangerous liquids.

Fire extinguishers are the subject of conditions from HSE also. They must be easily accessible to the vehicle crew and protected against the effects of the weather.

