

Guidelines for the Placarding of Chemical Storage areas

When emergency services respond to fires and chemical spills at premises that store dangerous goods and combustible liquids, the responders need to know the potential hazards involved at such incidents. For effective and efficient emergency action, they need information about the type, quantity and locations of the dangerous goods and combustible liquids stored at the premises.

Placards serve to:

- Alert emergency services to the presence of dangerous goods;
- Identify dangerous goods stored in tanks;
- Identify areas where significant quantities of dangerous goods in packages are stored;
- Identify the hazards of goods present; and
- Indicate the required emergency actions for dangerous goods in tanks through the use of the HAZCHEM code.

Legislative Requirements

The University of Queensland is a large dangerous goods location and therefore under the Dangerous Goods Safety Management Regulation (section 50) must be placarded.

Specifically this requirement states that:

(1) The occupier must display warning placards of the following types at the occupier's facility or location—

- (a) a HAZCHEM outer warning placard;
- (b) an information placard for stated dangerous goods or combustible liquids stored—
 - (i) in tanks; or
 - (ii) in packages

for quantities of packaged dangerous goods exceed the quantities in **Schedule 1**.

Status of existing placarding

Throughout the University of Queensland, there are many existing placards that have been installed under a previous regulation Part 11 – Placarding for Hazardous Substances of the *Health Regulation, 1996*. Part 11 was repealed when the *DGSM Regulation* commenced on 7 May 2002. The requirements of the DGSM Regulation are similar to those of the previous regulation, but there are some significant differences in style and information content of some placards, the materials for which

placards are required, and the quantities of materials above which placards are required.

Existing placards installed under the previous placarding regulation may continue to be used until such time as they have become illegal or need to be replaced, provided that:

- They were in place at the commencement of Schedule 1 of the DGSM Act (7 May 2002);
- They complied with the previous placarding regulation; and
- They contain all the information required by the DGSM Regulation.

The exemption for the style of placard expires 5 years after the commencement of Schedule 1 of the DGSM Act (7 May 2002) after which replacement placards will be required which must comply fully with the DGSM Regulation (Sections 49-55 and Schedules 1 and 3)

Further Information

For further information on the requirement for, location of, and type of placard required on both the premises and each tank or storage area, refer to the DGSM Information Paper No. 1 – Placarding for Dangerous Goods Storage.

<http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/chem>

SCHEDULE 1

	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Item	Stated dangerous goods or combustible liquids	Packing group	Quantity for dangerous goods location	Quantity for a large dangerous goods location
2. (cont.)		Mixed packing groups in a single class with the quantity of each packing groups below the quantity specified for the packing group	1 000 kg or L	10 000 kg or L
3.	Class 9	II	1 000 kg or L	10 000 kg or L
		III	5 000 kg or L	10 000 kg or L
		Mixed packing groups in class 9 with the quantity of each packing group below the quantity specified for the packing group	5 000 kg or L	10 000 kg or L

	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Item	Stated dangerous goods or combustible liquids	Packing group	Quantity for dangerous goods location	Quantity for a large dangerous goods location
4(a).	Mixed classes of stated dangerous goods where none of the classes, types or packing groups (if any) present exceeds the quantities specified in items 1, 2 and 3 of this table	Not applicable	2 000 kg or L Where the quantity specified in this schedule for each of the classes is 2 000 kg or L or less	10 000 kg or L
4(b).	Mixed classes of stated dangerous goods where none of the classes, types or packing groups (if any) present exceeds the quantities specified in items 1, 2 and 3 of this table	Not applicable	5 000 kg or L Where the quantity specified in this schedule for one or more of the classes is 5 000 kg or L and placarding is not required for items 1, 2, 3 and 4(a)	10 000 kg or L
5.	Goods too dangerous to be transported	Not applicable	5 kg or L	50 kg or L
6.	Combustible liquids with fire risk dangerous goods	Not applicable	1 000 kg or L Includes both C1 and C2	10 000 kg or L Includes both C1 and C2

	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Item	Stated dangerous goods or combustible liquids	Packing group	Quantity for dangerous goods location	Quantity for a large dangerous goods location
7.	C1 combustible liquids	Not applicable	10 000 L in a tank 50 000 L in packages 50 000 L in tanks and packages combined provided the quantity of C1s in tanks does not exceed 10 000 L	100 000 L in tanks or packages