

Transport of dangerous goods and protection of employees – guidance to apply regulations on chemicals handling

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The purpose of international dangerous goods transport regulations is on one hand to ensure a safely transport, due to the well-known dangers of accidents and on the other hand to give this special transport issues a touch of reproduceable technical standard. This clear objectives, standing in serious contrast to the readability and easily understanding of the detailed regulation texts, aren't practised often enough, at least.

As a matter of fact, someone has to read and understand the regulations dealing with the transport of dangerous goods with nearly unlimited patience.

Core issues are often merged with small-minded regulations, linked together with a large number of cross-references. The DGR (dangerous goods regulations) concerning transportation on public streets in the present form, the so-called ADR 2003, is widely unknown or ignored, especially by small economic companies. The special mix between technical issues in combination with detailed labelling requirements and formalistic regulations makes it hard to obtain a clear look to the bottom of safety regulations in ADR. To make things worse, there is a permanent changing approximately every two years, mainly concerning detail regulations and due to this fact someone has to be quite fast to get the right directions at hand and bring them to life in practice. But, believe me or not, the major properties of chemicals don't change every two years.

The presented poster will give proposals for an efficient solution of the main questions in DGR-regulations like the following:

- Doing too much results is the same disaster than doing nothing!
- What are the basic management requirements?
- ADR / DGR-Regulations: From chaos to life and understanding!

- Safety data sheet – Nonsens or basic requirement?
- Permanent teaching – are you kidding?
- Requirements for First Aid – key issues.
- Consequences of negative behaviour.
- How to struggle with fines and how to avoid them!

All the proposed solutions boil down to the simple question of whether people are well prepared for making great demands on the rules for long-term human communication.

Moreover, it's fine to be in full command of these difficult topics, but it is worse if you can't translate complex regulations in common sense and reduce them to the main point. There is an extreme need of understanding the basic rules of physics and the main dangerous threats of chemicals. Even more not to teach single issues, but the interplay of mentioned forces. Nevertheless, you have to obey these formalistic rules of ADR, but sometimes you are lucky when you don't question too much about the sense of these rules.

A further major topic in this area is, simple said – Time! Unfortunately, time is a severe factor of success in transportation matters. Often, the question in practice is how to handle basic safety requirements in a minimum of time. Which issue, being not so important, can be tolerated, and which can be not? To ignore basic physical and chemical properties, together with ignorance of basic rules of truckload, is not only very dangerous, it is simple stupid. How to guarantee maximum transport safety without having time for it? It is not possible without spending a minimum of time. Well trained and skilled workers can save a lot of expensive time and improve safety to a certain extent.

As a conclusion, let me tell you, it is better to have spent money and time for well-trained employees obeying the ADR-guidelines than to hassle with bureaucracy and justice.

Technical requirements and knowledge in physical and chemical properties are higher values than sticking to formalistic guidelines.