

Transportation of Dangerous Goods by Road



Dangerous goods possess certain properties or characteristics that make them inherently dangerous. These goods include explosives and gases as well as flammable, oxidizing, toxic and infectious substances. They also include radioactive materials and corrosive ones. All dangerous goods fit into one or more of the nine classes set out in the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* and regulations.

According to the International Labour Organization about 50 per cent of all goods transported throughout the world are dangerous. The number of shipments in Canada each year is too great to estimate, but it is in the multi-millions according to Transport Canada. With so many dangerous goods moving across the country, the potential for damage to human health and the environment is enormous.

The 2013 Lac-Megantic, Quebec disaster is a sombre reminder. A train, carrying six million litres of petroleum crude oil, rolled downhill toward the small town at a speed of 65 mph. The resulting fires and explosions killed 47 people, caused the evacuation of 2,000 more and destroyed the downtown core.

Under the TDG regulations, workers whose work involves dangerous goods must receive adequate training. To be adequately trained, a person must have a sound knowledge of the topics listed in the TDG regulations that relate to their duties and the goods with which they work. It is the employer's responsibility to ensure that workers know how to safely handle the particular goods and equipment used in their workplace as well as any special instructions and emergency procedures. Each employer must determine what is adequate for each worker and issue a training certificate.

Workers Health & Safety Centre offers two quality training programs, one to meet mandatory training requirements for those who work with dangerous goods and another which offers essential awareness for joint health and safety committee members and others who may monitor TDG implementation in their workplace.

Transportation of Dangerous Goods by Road Program Duration: 6 hours

This six-hour program is for those who work with dangerous goods. It is intended for consignors, carriers and other workers who work with these dangerous goods. This program addresses the legal requirements of the TDG regulations and covers all nine classes of dangerous goods. This program incorporates recent legislative changes including the International Harmonization Update to the TDG regulations (2017-137). The program is structured to allow instructors to focus on the hazard classes that participants work with.

WHSC issues two different TDG training certificates for this program: 1) for consignors whose job involves classifying dangerous goods; and 2) for all other participants. In advance of the program, a WHSC training service representative will determine with each client who will be attending the training.

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It will be determined if there will be consignors in the class whose job involves classifying dangerous goods. A WHSC-qualified instructor will further verify participants' needs before the program begins to ensure appropriate content is covered and the correct certificate of training is issued.

Items the employer needs to complete that will not be checked off when they receive the WHSC training certificate are: safe handling and transport practice; proper use of equipment for handling or transporting dangerous goods, and emergency measures to reduce or eliminate danger to the public.

A training certificate expires 36 months (3 years) after its date of issuance for transport by road vehicle.

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Program Duration: 3 hours

This three-hour training program is intended for certified members of joint health and safety committees. Joint committee members need to be aware of the TDG requirements so they can monitor the TDG system in their workplace and make recommendations to protect workers' health and safety. They must know what to look for during inspections, which questions to ask, which workers require TDG training and what adequate training means.

To meet this need, this course provides an introduction to the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* and its regulations with a discussion of dangerous goods found in participants' workplaces. The program reviews the nine TDG classes, the process involved in transporting dangerous goods and the important difference between WHMIS and TDG. Key terms used in the TDG regulations are explained, followed by an explanation of the various roles of consignors, carriers, persons and inspectors. Participants also explore how a consignor classifies dangerous goods and work in groups to complete part of a shipping document. They will also learn about emergency response assistance plans, security plans and release reports. The program concludes with an important discussion of training requirements and the joint committee's role.

Note: *These courses cover road transportation only. They do not cover rail or transportation of dangerous goods by air (ICAO) or maritime transport of dangerous goods (IMDG).*