

FACT SHEET

Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Bill 2010

- The purpose of this Bill is to improve land transport safety by regulating the transport of dangerous goods that, due to their physical, chemical and toxicological properties, can pose a significant risk to human life, health, property and the environment, particularly when being transported.
- In 2008, all jurisdictions voted to adopt a new package of model laws produced by the National Transport Commission (NTC), an independent body funded by all States and Territories and the Commonwealth.
- It is anticipated that adoption by all jurisdictions will provide for a seamless regulatory environment for the transport of dangerous goods across the country, and internationally.
- This will ensure that Tasmanian businesses can transport dangerous goods across Tasmania, through other states, and overseas under a consistent set of packaging, labelling and safety requirements.
- This Bill and the Regulations to be made there under effectively adopt the Commonwealth's package of model laws and the Australian Code for the Transport and Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail 7th Edition.
- In many instances this Bill carries on and repeats large parts of the current *Dangerous Goods (Safe Transport) Act 1998*. However, rather than trying to laboriously amend the current legislation to accommodate every change occasioned by the model laws, it was decided that a more sensible approach would be to repeal the existing legislation and replace it with the new model legislation.

- The new Bill is expected to provide a number of benefits for industry, Government and the community:
 - improved compatibility with international regulations and codes on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous goods;
 - a single set of regulations for domestic road and rail transport operators resulting in a reduction in inter-modal inefficiencies for the transport industry;
 - an up-to-date list of dangerous goods which will benefit both the transport industry and emergency services by making it easier to identify substances and related requirements;
 - benefits for global companies with operations in Tasmania with closer alignment with United Nations and international practice; and
 - cost savings, as some quantities of dangerous goods can be transported without adhering to provisions of the new Bill or the Australian Code for the Transport and Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail 7th Edition.

- The introduction of the Bill will result in some changes for industry. These changes are expected to be minimal and include:
 - Emergency Action Codes are replacing current Hazchem Codes;
 - the Emergency Action Code for LPG will change from 2WE to 2YE, which signifies the addition of cold burn protection for emergency responders in the event of an incident; and
 - increased powers to authorised officers, powers will extend to the ability to stop and conduct searches of vehicles, give directions to rail operators, inspect and search premises, seize and remove documentation, equipment and records, and obtain warrants.