

Decommissioning of Sites Containing Dangerous Goods

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Sponsor: Dangerous Goods

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1. PURPOSE

The intent of this guideline is to provide guidance to industry when involved in the decommissioning/ downsizing of a dangerous goods site. The occupier also has a duty of care to minimise the impact on the community and the environment.

2. SCOPE

This guideline deals with the decommissioning, demolition, down-sizing or purging of dangerous goods sites. The application of this guideline does not preclude the continuing obligation to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and safety at the premises.

3. DEFINITIONS

Dangerous Goods: has the same meaning as that of *the Dangerous Goods Act 1985*.

Decommissioning: refers to any down-sizing or demolition, reduction in storage, or manufacturing on dangerous goods sites.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Dangerous Goods (Storage and Handling) Regulation 2012 stipulates the regulatory requirements which must be complied with as the quantities of dangerous goods on site are reduced. Schedule 2 of these regulations defines three specific thresholds; **placarding quantity, manifest quantity and fire protection quantity**. The extent of regulatory compliance is determined by the quantity of dangerous goods on site relative to these thresholds.

An occupier wishing to alter the existing fire safety systems at a site where dangerous goods exceed fire protection quantity levels must obtain written advice from Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) before making those alterations (see Storage and Handling Regulation 54).

While the quantity of dangerous goods at a site remains above the manifest quantity, a revision of the emergency plan for the site may be necessary to address the decommissioning process. If an emergency plan revision is required, written advice must be obtained from FRV (see Dangerous Goods Storage and Handling Regulation 55).

Information contained in the emergency information book must be current with the changes, as a result of the decommissioning.

Placarding should be reviewed and updated as necessary.

Any fire safety systems protecting a risk or hazard on-site should be available and be able to be operated by suitably trained on-site personnel until the risk or hazard is removed.

Shared fire safety systems being decommissioned should not be isolated or removed, until investigation on what impact this will have on the designed operation of this system within the other site, unless equivalent protection is available for the other site.

Upon completion of a decommissioning process, the FRV Dangerous Goods Department should be notified.

Major hazard facilities may require additional consideration, in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007.

5. REFERENCES

Dangerous Goods (Storage and Handling) Regulations 2012

Dangerous Goods Act 1985

Dangerous Goods Code of Practice for the Storage and Handling of Dangerous Goods 2013

Demolition Code of Practice No 14, 1991 and Amendment No 1, 1998

Building Regulations 2006 (Amendments – 2015)

Building Act 1993

Occupational Health & Safety Regulations 2007

Occupational Health & Safety Act 2004

Note: *this is a controlled document and may only be modified by authorised personnel after review by FRV Fire Safety Advisory Group.*