Comment on the Draft Code for the Land Transport of Dangerous Goods Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement: ADG Code Consultation RIS (2024)

General observations

While the reformatting will take some time to get used to, I applaud the improved flow and consistency of the document, and agree that in general it makes it more certain that you have considered all the sections of the code that are relevant.

The inclusion of explosives has led to much extra text in key sections of the code. That has lead to an increase in the reading to find relevant sections in the short term.

1.8.3 Dangerous Goods Advisor

I strongly support this role. Apart from the purely selfish reasons that it will support my own work, recent incidents indicate that there has been considerable loss of expertise in this area, with new businesses operating with little to no understanding of their obligations. While not relevant to transport, the existence of a required role for transport will facilitate its recognition in storage and handling as well, improving safety across workplaces and in the whole logistics chain.

7.5.2 Mixed Loading (Segregation) table

There is no indication that Segregation applies only at a placard load. While this is present in the Regulations (eg Vic reg 107), in the past the code made it clear that application was for placard loads. In keeping with the principle that the new Code should make obligations clear, I recommend that this is added.

I note that in the Segregation table, the combination of 3 and 6.1 gets note 3, Mixed loading permitted other than exceptions in the following table, but there is no exception in the table that relates to this. Perhaps this was held over from the current requirement for nitromethane with any toxic goods, which never made any sense and has happily been removed.

The exception table has strong acids with alkalis. Previously and elsewhere this wording has been strong, concentrated acids with strong, concentrated alkalis. There is no need to require segregation for a dilute solution of hydrochloric acid, which is still a strong acid but which may only be corrosive to metals at this concentration, and a similarly dilute sodium hydroxide solution, which is still an alkali. I recommend that you consider specifying that PG I and II materials require segregation, but that PG III acids do not require segregation from PG III alkalis unless there is a dangerous reaction, such as between acids and hypochlorite solution.

For ease of reference, it would be useful if these tables were numbered or at least named.

7.5.4 Foodstuffs:

The restriction as written applies to toxic materials and class 9’s, primarily asbestos and PCBs (see below). There is no general restriction on corrosive materials, as with the current code. Only the more reactive materials which Eg, no restriction on UN1789 hydrochloric acid or UN1830 sulfuric acid >51% and foodstuffs, but restrictions on a great many materials of other classes (all of which I support). There is no requirement for segregation from food wrappers

Packages of materials with SP CV28 requires effectively only a 0.8m separation from foodstuffs, or nothing where partitions (unspecified here or in definitions) or other packages between are present.

These are significant reductions from current controls. Is it known whether additional controls apply elsewhere? Or whether a rigorous assessment of the effectiveness of a 0.8m separation has been made?

While much retail distribution is of LQ material, and already exempt from the restriction, there are materials that exceed LQ. It may be easier to just partition or ensure separation of DG from foodstuffs by 0.8m, perhaps by an intervening pallet. This is still a significant administrative control to implement.

model No. 9 containing goods of UN Nos. 2212, 2315, 2590, 3151, 3152 or 3245, (asbestos, PCBs, PHAs and GMOs)

Classification:

No comment - improved clarity overall.

Dangerous Goods List:

New information will require considerable review to understand. The Special provisions for carriage in particular, will require careful assessment for each individual workplace to determine which may be relevant.