

Information Sheet

Performance Based Standards (PBS) vehicles carrying dangerous goods

This information sheet describes the requirements for PBS approved tankers carrying dangerous goods.

Operators wishing to operate a PBS tanker carrying dangerous goods must obtain a PBS vehicle approval from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR), and approval from the Competent Authority in the jurisdiction they wish to operate for the carriage of dangerous goods.

Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) Code

The ADG Code sets out the requirements for transporting dangerous goods by road or rail. It has been implemented in all jurisdictions in Australia.

The purpose of the ADG Code is to provide consistent technical requirements for the land transport of dangerous goods across Australia. The ADG Code should be read in conjunction with relevant state or territory law.

It is important that everyone involved in transporting dangerous goods understands their responsibilities to help prevent and/or reduce harm to people, property and the environment.

The ADG Code is given legal force in each Australian state and territory by each jurisdiction's dangerous goods transport laws. It is important that the ADG Code is read in conjunction with these laws because they provide important information, including supply chain member duties and licence requirements.

The ADG Code lists provisions applicable to the transport of dangerous goods including:

- classification;
- packaging and performance testing;
- use of bulk containers, IBCs, freight containers and unit loads;
- marking and placarding;
- vehicle requirements;
- segregation and stowage;
- transfer of bulk dangerous goods;
- documentation;
- safety equipment;
- procedures during transport emergencies; and
- the dangerous goods list with UN numbers.

More information and a copy of the ADG Code can be found at the following links:

<https://www.ntc.gov.au/heavy-vehicles/safety/australian-dangerous-goods-code/>

https://infrastructure.gov.au/transport/australia/dangerous/dg_code_7e.aspx

Requirements for Dangerous Goods Tank Vehicles

It is a dangerous goods legislative requirement that all road tank vehicles intended to transport dangerous goods must meet the requirements set out in Chapter 6.9 of the ADG Code. This includes the manufacturer/owner obtaining an approval from the Competent Authority in their jurisdiction before the road tank vehicle can be used to transport dangerous goods by road. This approval is separate to the PVS Vehicle Approval process.

Performance-Based Standards

The Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme offers the heavy vehicle industry the potential to achieve higher productivity and safety through innovative and optimised vehicle design.

PBS vehicles are designed to perform their tasks as productively, safely and sustainably as possible, and to operate on networks that are appropriate for their level of performance. The basic principle of PBS is matching the right vehicles to the right tasks.

Exemptions for PBS Vehicles

The exemptions for PBS vehicles are found in Section 28 of the *Heavy Vehicle (General) National Regulation* which can be found at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/hvnl>

The Standards and Vehicle Assessment Rules

To be approved by the NHVR, a vehicle must satisfy the safety and infrastructure standards. These standards are located at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/performance-based-standards/guidelines-and-rules>

Of note in both the ADG Code and the PBS scheme are requirements related to roll stability; PBS road tankers hauling dangerous goods must meet static rollover threshold performance levels in addition to any requirements in the ADG Code.

Gaining Approval for PBS Vehicles

All PBS vehicles must undergo an assessment and certification and have a PBS Vehicle Approval issued in addition to the approval required for Dangerous Good operation. Details for the approval process for PBS vehicles are available at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/performance-based-standards/application-process-and-forms>

It is wise to seek the services of a PBS Assessor before starting the design process for a PBS vehicle. A list of PBS Assessor can be found at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/road-access/performance-based-standards/useful-contacts>

Assessment of PBS vehicles hauling dangerous goods:

PBS vehicles may be assessed by either simulation or physical testing. Where physical testing at any time requires the vehicle to be on road, appropriate approval must be obtained to allow vehicle access to the required test facility.

Physical testing of road tankers designed to haul dangerous goods in bulk must only be tested using a non-flammable and safe test medium that best replicates the in-service load conditions of the vehicle being assessed. The fill levels of all tank compartments must be recorded.

Care must be taken in the selection and assessment of the test medium relevant to the vehicle and the future freight task. Incorrect selection and assessment can be a risk to future cargo safety or future cargo quality.

Contact the NHVR

If operators have any further queries regarding the information in this document, the NHVR may be contacted using the details below.

For more information:

Subscribe: www.nhvr.gov.au/subscribe

Visit: www.nhvr.gov.au

Phone: 1300 MYNHVR* (1300 696 487)

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