

Australian Standard™

**The handling and transport of  
dangerous cargoes in port areas**

**STANDARDS**  
Australia



This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee ME-081, Storage, Handling and Transport of Dangerous Cargoes in Port Areas. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 10 October 2005.  
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The following are represented on Committee ME-081:

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Standards Australia Committee ME-081, Storage, Handling and Transport of Dangerous Cargoes in Port Areas, to supersede AS 3846—1998. Its requirements are based on, and are intended to complement, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) *Recommendations on the Safe Transport of Dangerous Cargoes and Related Activities in Port Areas*.

The Standard has been revised to meet changed regulatory requirements and to update procedures in line with current practices.

The purpose of this Standard is to provide safety requirements and recommendations for facilities and operations at ports where dangerous cargoes are handled.

In this Standard, the term ‘dangerous cargoes’ is defined as any cargo, including freight stores or other commodities, whether packaged or in bulk, intended for carriage by sea and having properties that are within the Classes listed in the IMO *International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code* (IMDG Code).

This definition also includes any bulk cargo which is not covered by the *IMDG Code*, but which is subject to the requirements of the IMO Code for the *Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk*, the IMO Code for the *Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk*, the IMO Code of Existing Ships *Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk*, or Appendix B of the IMO Code of Safe Practice for *Solid Bulk Cargoes*, insofar as such a cargo could constitute a hazard to those in the port area or to the port environment.

It is recognized that there are solid substances shipped in bulk which do not constitute any hazard when stored ashore, but which may create problems affecting safety subsequent to their loading onto a ship. In such situations compliance with the provisions of the IMO *Code of Safe Practice for Solid Bulk Cargoes* (CS Code) is necessary.

Permission to use the Ship/Shore Safety Check list from the fourth edition of the *International Safety Guide for Oil Tankers and Terminals* (ISGOTT) is gratefully acknowledged.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of an appendix. A normative Appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an informative Appendix provides information and guidance only.

Statements expressed in mandatory terms in notes to tables are deemed to be requirements of this Standard.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL	
1.1 SCOPE .....	6
1.2 APPLICATION .....	6
1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS .....	6
1.4 DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS .....	6
SECTION 2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	
2.1 SCOPE OF SECTION .....	7
2.2 RISK ASSESSMENT, REQUIREMENTS AND PRECAUTIONS .....	17
2.3 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCUMENTATION, MARKING AND PACKAGING OF DANGEROUS CARGOES .....	17
2.4 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PORTS, BERTHS AND SHIPS .....	18
SECTION 3 ADVANCE NOTIFICATION	
3.1 SCOPE OF SECTION .....	20
3.2 ADVANCE NOTIFICATION .....	20
3.3 PACKAGED DANGEROUS CARGOES .....	20
3.4 BULK DANGEROUS CARGOES .....	20
SECTION 4 DANGEROUS CARGOES OF EXPLOSIVES OF CLASS 1	
4.1 SCOPE OF SECTION .....	22
4.2 COMPATIBILITY AND MIXED STOWAGE .....	22
4.3 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS .....	22
4.4 REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE SHIP .....	25
4.5 ORDINARY BERTHS .....	26
4.6 SPECIAL BERTHS .....	26
SECTION 5 PACKAGED DANGEROUS CARGOES OF CLASSES 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 OR 9	
5.1 SCOPE OF SECTION .....	29
5.2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS .....	29
5.3 RESTRICTED AREAS .....	30
5.4 SEGREGATION .....	30
SECTION 6 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AMMONIUM NITRATE AND CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE	
6.1 SCOPE OF SECTION .....	32
6.2 CLASSIFICATION OF AMMONIUM NITRATE AND CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE .....	32
6.3 FUNDAMENTAL SAFETY .....	32
6.4 QUANTITY LIMITS AT ORDINARY BERTHS .....	33
6.5 LARGER QUANTITIES AT A SPECIAL BERTH .....	33
6.6 REQUIREMENTS FOR HANDLING AMMONIUM NITRATE OR CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE AT A SPECIAL BERTH .....	35
6.7 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES .....	37
6.8 AMMONIUM NITRATE AND CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE IN PACKAGES, INTERMEDIATE BULK CONTAINERS, FREIGHT CONTAINERS AND BULK	37

SECTION 7 DANGEROUS CARGOES OF DANGEROUS GOODS CLASS 7	
7.1	SCOPE OF SECTION ..... 38
7.2	GENERAL REQUIREMENTS ..... 38
7.3	EXPOSURE TO DANGEROUS CARGOES OF CLASS 7 ..... 38
7.4	TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS CARGOES OF CLASS 7 ..... 39
7.5	ONSHORE STORES AND AREAS FOR DANGEROUS CARGOES OF CLASS 7 ..... 40
7.6	STOWAGE ON BOARD SHIP ..... 41
7.7	HANDLING OF CLASS 7 DANGEROUS GOODS ..... 41
7.8	DAMAGE, SPILLAGE AND LEAKAGE ..... 42
SECTION 8 BULK LIQUID DANGEROUS CARGOES, INCLUDING LIQUEFIED GASES	
8.1	SCOPE OF SECTION ..... 43
8.2	GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BULK LIQUID DANGEROUS CARGOES ..... 43
8.3	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BULK FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS ..... 48
8.4	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BULK LIQUEFIED GASES ..... 51
8.5	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BULK TOXIC OR CORROSIVE LIQUIDS, INCLUDING LIQUEFIED TOXIC GASES ..... 51
8.6	MULTIPURPOSE CARRIERS ..... 52
SECTION 9 BULK SOLID DANGEROUS CARGOES	
9.1	SCOPE AND GENERAL ..... 53
9.2	INFORMATION FOR OPERATIONAL AND EMERGENCY PURPOSES ..... 53
9.3	EMISSION OF HARMFUL DUSTS ..... 53
9.4	COMBUSTIBLE DUSTS ..... 53
9.5	WATER-REACTIVE CARGOES ..... 54
9.6	OXIDIZING SUBSTANCES ..... 54
9.7	INCOMPATIBILITY ..... 54
9.8	SHIP/SHORE SAFETY CHECK LIST ..... 54
SECTION 10 FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES	
10.1	SCOPE OF SECTION ..... 55
10.2	FIRE HAZARDS ..... 55
10.3	FIRE PROTECTION MEASURES ..... 55
10.4	GENERAL FIRE PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS ..... 56
10.5	INITIAL RESOURCES FOR TANKER BERTHS ..... 57
10.6	WATER SUPPLY ..... 57
10.7	FIRE PROTECTION AND DETECTION SYSTEMS ..... 58
SECTION 11 REPAIR WORK	
11.1	SCOPE OF SECTION ..... 60
11.2	IMMOBILISATION ..... 60
11.3	CLASSIFICATION OF REPAIRS ..... 60
11.4	HOT WORK PERMIT ..... 60
11.5	ENTRY PERMIT ..... 60
11.6	FIRE PRECAUTIONS ..... 61
11.7	COLD WORK PERMIT ..... 61

Page

## APPENDICES

A	REFERENCED DOCUMENTS .....	62
B	FIREFIGHTING SUPPORT SHIPS .....	66
C	QUANTIFIED RISK ASSESSMENT .....	70
D	SAFETY MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY PLANNING.....	72
E	ENTRY INTO ENCLOSED SPACES ABOARD SHIPS .....	75
F	COMPATIBILITY GROUPS AND CLASSIFICATION CODES FOR CLASS 1 DANGEROUS GOODS.....	83
G	SHORE-BASED FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES FOR TANKER BERTHS.....	84
H	LETTER ON ARRIVAL AT TERMINAL .....	90
I	EMERGENCY NOTICE .....	91
J	SHORE FACILITIES INTEGRITY STATEMENT .....	94
K	CARGO HANDLING PLAN .....	95
L	SHIP/SHORE SAFETY CHECK LIST FOR BULK LIQUIDS AND LIQUEFIED GASES .....	99
M	APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO IMMOBILISE—TANKER .....	121
N	SIMULTANEOUS MULTIPLE HANDLING OF BULK LIQUID DANGEROUS CARGOES IN PIPELINES .....	122
O	CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, TESTING, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF PIPELINES, LOADING ARMS AND FLEXIBLE HOSES .....	123
P	MULTIPURPOSE CARRIERS .....	125
Q	SHIP/SHORE SAFETY CHECK LIST FOR SOLID BULK DANGEROUS CARGOES .....	126
R	NOTIFICATION TO PORT AUTHORITY .....	133
S	HOT WORK PERMIT.....	134
T	COLD WORK PERMIT .....	136

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard****The handling and transport of dangerous cargoes in port areas**

## SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE**

This Standard sets out requirements and recommendations for the safe entry, presence, handling and transport of dangerous cargoes, as listed in the *International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code* (IMDG Code) and defined in Clause 1.4.20, within port areas.

NOTE: The term ‘dangerous cargo’ is synonymous with ‘dangerous goods’ which is used in the *UN Recommendations for the Transport of Dangerous Goods—Model Regulations*.

The purpose of this Standard is to provide minimum acceptable safety requirements for the handling and transport of dangerous goods at port facilities, including operating procedures, repair work, emergency planning and fire protection. It provides technical guidance that may assist in the handling and transport of dangerous cargoes in port areas in accordance with regulatory requirements. However, practices alternative to those set out in this Standard may be employed, provided that an appropriate level of safety, based on a documented risk assessment, can be maintained and demonstrated. Advice should be sought from the relevant regulatory authority.

**1.2 APPLICATION**

This Standard applies to the handling and transport of dangerous cargoes (as defined in Clause 1.4.20) in port areas. The requirements of this Standard apply in conjunction with, but do not take precedence over, any regulatory requirements that apply.

This Standard does not apply to the following operations:

- (a) Bunkering, unless deemed to apply by the relevant port authority.
- (b) The handling and transport of coal.

For the purposes of this Standard, coal is not considered a dangerous cargo.

**1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

A list of documents referred to in this Standard is provided in Appendix A.

**1.4 DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions, abbreviations and acronyms given below apply.

NOTE: The abbreviation ‘(IMO)’ at the end of a definition indicates that it has been drawn from the *IMO Recommendations on the Safe Transport of Dangerous Cargoes and Related Activities in Port Areas*.

**1.4.1 ADG Code**

The *Australian Dangerous Goods Code*, published by the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services.

NOTE: The current edition of the *ADG Code* should be consulted.