DANGEROUS GOODS

Information for the General Public & Non-Commercial Operators

What do paint, laundry, bleach, propane, car batteries, gasoline and hay have in common?

Firstly, they are all commonly used products and secondly, by their nature, if they are not handled with care, they can be hazardous to our health and the environment. Because of the added hazard, these are classified as being dangerous goods, and extra care is required with transporting them.

There are more than 3,600 dangerous goods listed in the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, and the regulations that govern them are often quite complex. In the hope of simplifying the process, we have provided a few brief notes concerning the most commonly encountered products.

If you are planning to travel with us and have dangerous goods to carry, this will give you some initial guidance. If your particular product is not listed, feel free to call your nearest terminal and ask for help. We are at your service.

For products not listed in this brochure, please call the terminal of departure for information.

For those travelling on our northern routes, the Port of Prince Rupert imposes certain special regulations. Please contact our Prince Rupert terminal for further information at least 24 hours prior to departure.

Remember, the driver of the vehicle must declare all dangerous goods at the terminal via the ticket booth, a terminal attendant or a vessel officer (depending on your terminal of departure).

Failure to declare dangerous goods is an offence under Canadian law.
DEFINITIONS OF CERTAIN DANGEROUS GOODS TERMS

EMPTY CONTAINER:
Although they may be "empty", drums, tanks, or other containers which once contained dangerous goods (usually flammable liquids) are still considered to be dangerous and are subject to the regulation. They cannot be carried on our ships until they have been cleaned or purged and declared as being free of all residue, so that no danger remains.

FLASH POINT:
The temperature at which a liquid gives off vapour sufficient to form an ignitable mixture with air near the surface of the liquid is known as "flash point". At BC Ferries we carry certain flammable products and it is essential that we know what their flash points are.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
Considered to be dangerous and are subject to the regulation. They must be completely secured and labeled to prevent them from moving.

FOOT PASSENGERS
May carry one spare container, on board the vessel, is prohibited. Customers must notify the vessel's officer if they are carrying personal medical oxygen.

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TIDY TANK:
A trade name for what the regulations call a "small container" with a capacity of not more than 45L, 90 gallons. It is designed to fit in the back of a pick-up or other small truck, and it is usually used to transport fuel carried; they may or may not be permitted. See Diesel Fuel or Gasoline (inside brochure) for details.

DANGEROUS GOODS COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED BY BC FERRIES

AEROSOLS
Generally, aerosols can be carried on our ferries, provided that they are not larger than 1L in size (some exceptions apply).

AUTOMOTIVE ANTI-FREEZE
This is not considered to be dangerous; therefore it is not regulated and can be carried in any amount.

FUEL TANKS AUXILIARY
Not to be confused with spare gas tanks, (see "Gasoline"), auxiliary fuel tanks that form an integral part of the vehicle, connected by a fuel line to the engine fuel system, and firmly secured and protected from external damage, are permitted.

HELMET
The carriage of methanol in the fuel tank of a race car is permitted up to a maximum of 25L. Not more than 2 spare containers with not more than 25L in each are also permitted. Spare containers must be completely secured and labeled.

METHANOL
The carriage of methanol in the fuel tank of a race car is permitted up to a maximum of 25L. Not more than 2 spare containers with not more than 25L in each are also permitted. Spare containers must be completely secured and labeled.

OXYGEN
Personal medical oxygen is permitted; however, these cylinders may not exceed 5L water capacity. Cylinders that are not in a portable unit must be secured within the transport vehicle. The transfer of liquid oxygen from the “liberator” or bulk container to the “stroller” or portable container, on board the vessel, is prohibited. Customers must notify terminal staff if they are carrying personal medical oxygen.

PAINT & PAINT-RELATED PRODUCTS
Latex paint is not regulated and is permitted in any quantity. Oil based products, including paint, lacquer, enamel, stain, shellac, varnish, polish, liquid filler and liquid lacquer base, as well as paint thinners or reducing compounds, if for personal use, and have been obtained through a public retail outlet are limited to the size of container and amount of containers, passengers will have to have the flash point of the paint when arriving at the terminal to see it is accepted for transport.

PROPAANE
Propane valves must be closed and sealed with the tags issued at the ticket booth, and the cylinders must be upright and firmly secured, to prevent tipping.

- RVs are permitted a maximum of two cylinders of not more than 25 kg each (50L water capacity each), provided they are connected to a regulator, and secured in or on the vehicle. Recreational vehicles may carry a third cylinder no larger than Bar-B-Q size (commonly called a 20-pound cylinder).
- Passenger vehicles are permitted to carry one cylinder not to exceed Bar-B-Q size (commonly called a 20-pound cylinder).
- Catering trucks / Food trucks / Catering trailers / Commercial vehicles that have built-in engineered propane tanks, and that have insurance and a certificate for the road, are allowed on BCFERIES. Documentation is not required. All pilot lights and propane valves are to be shut off and valves tagged with BCFIS propane tags. Propane tanks that are not built-in/engineered and can be removed must follow the rules for spare propane tanks.

WHEELCHAIRS (Motorized)
There are no restrictions on wheelchair when they are in use, but when they are carried as cargo or freight there are some precautions that must be taken. The battery must be securely in place, disconnected, with the terminals insulated to prevent short-circuiting, and the chair itself must be securely anchored so that it will not move.