

**DANGEROUS GOODS**

# Storage of Minor Quantities of Class 8 Corrosive Substances

This information bulletin provides general information about the categorisation and storage of minor quantities of Class 8 Corrosive Substances in accordance with [Australian Standard 3780 - 1994 - Minor storage Table 1](#).

## General

Class 8 Dangerous Goods comprise substances which by chemical action, will cause severe damage when in contact with living tissue, or in the case of leakage will materially damage or even destroy other goods or the means of transport. Examples include sulphuric acid (in vehicle batteries), hydrochloric acid (which may be used in swimming pools) and caustic soda (sodium hydroxide).

The primary health hazards presented by corrosive substances arises from their effect on human tissue. When in contact with the skin, or when swallowed or inhaled, damage to tissue may occur.

Where a specific corrosive substance has additional hazardous characteristics, such as oxidising properties, the effect may be increased.

Corrosive substances may also have toxic properties.

Many corrosive substances can react with metals, with natural or synthetic fibres and with some other corrosive substances. Therefore, it is important to store corrosive substances with only compatible substances to avoid any violent or adverse reactions.

Storage of corrosive substances in packages, in quantities not exceeding those set out in Table 1 and separated from any other storage by at least 10metres, may be regarded as minor storage.

## Packaging Groups

Corrosive substances are assigned to one of three categories according to the nature of the hazard:

- PG I, Packaging Group I - Great danger
- PG II, Packaging Group II -Medium danger
- PG III, Packaging Group III -Minor danger

The label or material safety data sheet (MSDS) should be consulted if unsure about the packaging group number.

## Precautions

The following precautions should be observed for any minor storage facility of Class 8 corrosive substances:

- A supply of water and eyewash should be available at a nearby location.
- Adequate ventilation should be provided for package storage and handling areas.
- Packages should not be kept near incompatible substances eg. keep strong acids away from bases (alkalis).

- Packages should be kept away from sources of heat. (Reference: Australian Standard 3780 - 1994 - Minor storage Table 1)
- Packages should be kept securely closed when not in use.
- Packages should be kept in such a manner as to avoid spillage.
- Packages should be kept on surfaces which, in the event of spillage, are resistant to damage by the contents of the packages.
- Appropriate spillage retention measures shall be provided at locations where packages are likely to be opened or their contents transferred eg. drip trays, and bunds.
- The contents of a package shall not be transferred to any other container for storage unless it is suitable for the storage of the corrosive substance and is clearly and exclusively marked to indicate the identity and hazard potential of that substance.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment shall be worn by any person involved in product transfer operations, eg. decanting or filling. This may include gloves, eye protection, aprons, and breathing protection.
- Any spills or leaks shall be cleaned up immediately, and disposed of in accordance with the local authorities and or the MSDS.
- Wastes should be kept and disposed of after seeking advice from local council, [Power and Water Corporation](#), [NT WorkSafe](#) or the [Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport \(NRETAS\)](#).
- Storage areas shall be secured against unauthorised entry. At all times, the storage area shall either be attended by a responsible person or be securely locked.

## Requirements specifically for indoor storage cabinets

Where there is more than one cabinet in any building or area, either:

- the aggregate quantity of corrosive substances kept in all such cabinets should not exceed 1000kg or litres (L); or
- there is not more than 250kg or L of Packaging Group II; or
- there is not more than 50kg or L of Packaging Group I.

Note: The cabinets should be separated from each other by at least 5 metres.

**Table 1: Minor Storage of Class 8 Corrosive Substances**

Type of Premises	PG I	PG II	PG III
Within a dwelling	2.5kg or L	12.5kg or L	50kg or L
Residential Premises	5kg or L	25kg or L	100kg or L
All other premises	50kg or L	250kg or L	1000kg or L

[Australian Standards](#) are available from the Territory Construction Association phone 8922 9666 or can be viewed online by visiting the Northern Territory Library, Parliament House, phone 8999 7177.

For further information please contact NT Worksafe on 1800 019 115 or go to [worksafe.nt.gov.au](http://worksafe.nt.gov.au)