

Awareness-raising campaign for undeclared and incorrectly declared dangerous goods

The safe transport of dangerous goods transported by rail, truck, inland waterways, oceans or air is of central importance to the economy. Therefore, the organizations mentioned with their logo have decided to increase awareness of this important issue.

Prevent accidents and negative legal and financial consequences for your company by correctly declaring dangerous goods!

Unfortunately, incorrect or undeclared dangerous goods are increasingly being detected during transport. Hazardous substances and objects are intentionally or out of ignorance submitted for transport without the correct labelling or accompanying documents. Undeclared and incorrectly declared dangerous goods represent an increasing problem in everyday transport, namely for:

- Passengers and crew of aircraft, ships, trucks, etc.
- Consignors (manufacturers, distributors and traders)
- Carriers (shipping companies, airlines, truck companies, railway companies and the postal service)
- Freight forwarders
- Warehouse operators
- Disposal companies

The regulations for the safe transport of dangerous substances and products have been further developed for decades by various UN bodies. These include detailed implementation provisions on classification, packaging, labelling, documentation and transport conditions. Correct classification is the most important basis for all subsequent steps. The international regulations on dangerous goods do not contain any penalties, as the latter are the responsibility of the national authorities.

Causes of incorrect or non-declaration

- Ignorance of the currently applicable regulations
- Negligence or even premeditated action to save costs
- Costs of procuring current regulations
- Time and effort spent on correct classification by specialist personnel
- Costs of compliant shipping (especially for occasional consignors)
- Training costs for all involved

Consequences of non-compliance

In addition to the negative consequences for humans and the environment, failure to comply with the relevant regulations may have other consequences, such as:

- The tragic accidents that have occurred several times in the past, sometimes resulting in numerous casualties, have led to large claims for damage
- High fines or imprisonment (based on national laws and ordinances)
- Embargoes by individual carriers against consignors
- Increasing reluctance of carriers to carry dangerous goods
- Stricter controls
- Online publication of breaches and naming of the company and the amount of the fine in individual countries, e.g. USA
- Poor "press" – damage to the image of the company and the entire sector
- Transport delays
- Unforeseeable recourse claims under civil law

For this reason, we are calling on your Executive Board to:

- Accept your responsibilities when it comes to dangerous goods.
- You have a duty to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations.
- If in doubt, have your products checked by experts and classified as to the correct category of dangerous goods.
- Don't save in the wrong place.
- Train your employees in accordance with the provisions of the dangerous goods regulations.
- Ignorance does not protect against punishment.

Thank you for your cooperation. Should you have any further questions about the transport of dangerous goods, please contact our expert Erwin Sigrist on +41 44,368 17 42 or erwin.sigrist@scienceindustries.ch.

scienceindustries – Business Association Chemistry Pharma Life Sciences, Zurich



Dr. Michael Matthes
Management Board Member



Erwin Sigrist
Manager Transport and Dangerous Goods Regulations

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