



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Information For The General Public (Non-Commercial Shippers)

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

First, 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. There are more than 3,600 hazardous materials and the Department of Transportation 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 hazardous materials 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 traveling on our southern routes, the Port of Prince Rupert imposes certain special regulations. Please contact the Prince Rupert terminal for further information at least 24 hours prior to departure. Remember, all hazardous materials must be declared at the ticket booth or to a vessel officer. Failure to declare hazardous materials is an offense under United States Federal law.

CHECK-IN TIME AND PROCESS

During the summer, vehicles with reservations are required to check in at the terminal prior to posted vessel departures as follows: Bellingham and Prince Rupert - 3 hours; Skagway, Haines, Juneau, Ketchikan - 2 hours; Petersburg - 1.5 hours; Homer, and Kodiak - 2 hours; Whittier, (Gulf of Alaska Crossing) - 3 hours, all other ports - 1 hour.

The lengthy check-in times are needed so that the vehicles can be arranged in the boarding lanes for safe and efficient loading, and for security screening. Passengers with vehicles who do not arrive on time may find that their reserved space has been given to someone waiting on the standby list.

Passengers without vehicles are required to check in 2 hours prior to departure in Bellingham, and 1 hour prior to departure at all other ports. Passengers must pass through security inspection at least thirty minutes prior to boarding, and must be on board the vessel no later than 15 minutes before departure.

Departure times at Sitka vary according to the tides and are set by the vessel master. Call the Sitka terminal at 907-747-8737 one hour before the arrival time listed in the schedule for a confirmed check-in/departure time.

The Driver of the vehicle must declare all hazardous materials prior to boarding.

Violators of Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR 171-180) may be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for each violation and, in appropriate cases, a criminal penalty of up to \$500,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 5 years.

DEFINITIONS OF CERTAIN HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TERMS

(Empty) CONTAINER

Although they may be “empty”, drums, tanks, or other containers which once contained HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (usually flammable liquids) are still considered to be dangerous and are subject to the regulation. They cannot be transported on our ships until they have been cleaned or purged and declared as being free of all residues, so that no danger remains.

FLASH POINT

The temperature at which a liquid gives off vapor sufficient to form an ignitable mixture with air near the surface of the liquid is known as “flash point”. On Alaska Marine Highway System Ferries we carry certain flammable products and it is essential that we know what their flash points are.

MSDS

An MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) is the information bulletin required to be prepared by every manufacturer of every product. In addition to identifying the technical properties and characteristics of the product, most importantly it contains safety, first aid, and emergency response data.

TIDY TANK

This is a trade name for what the regulations call a “small container” with a capacity of not more than 450L (119 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 for details.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED BY THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM (AMHS)

Note: All Hazardous Materials are required to be declared. The Loading Officer has the authority to prohibit loading of any item deemed unsuitable for passage. To avoid problems with transporting Hazardous Materials send e-Mail inquiries to ask_amhs@alaska.gov.

FOOT PASSENGERS

Provided the deck officer provides authorization and a suitable storage area is available on the car deck, passengers may carry outboard motors, chain saws, etc. on to the car deck only. This type of equipment is not permitted in passenger areas. A foot passenger may carry not more than one portable cylinder of Propane not exceeding 9 kg (20 lbs) and one 5L (1 gallon) metal container of fuel for camp stoves or lanterns. These items will not be transported as baggage, but must be carried aboard by the customer and must be stowed on the car deck in a location designated by the vessel’s loading officer.

AMMUNITION

Small quantities of ammunition (Not to exceed 29 kg (65 lbs) for handguns, rifles and shotguns, may be transported by passengers provided they are securely packaged and carried separately from any firearm that is being transported. No Black Powder in any quantity is allowed. Customers should check with local terminal staff for the AMHS policy on transporting firearms.

PROPANE

Propane valves must be closed and sealed by terminal personnel and the cylinders must be upright and firmly secured, to prevent tipping. Service repair vehicles may carry one 27kg (60 lbs) cylinder. RVs are permitted a maximum of two cylinders, provided they are connected to a regulator, and secured in or on the vehicle. Recreational vehicles may carry a third cylinder no larger than 9 kg (20 lbs) for BBQ needs. Passenger vehicles/boats on trailer are permitted to carry one cylinder not to exceed 9 kg (20 lbs) for each vehicle/boat.

DIESEL FUEL /HOME HEATING FUEL AND LUBE OIL

Limited quantities are permitted. Contact the Terminal of departure for details.

HAND BAGGAGE

Hazardous materials are prohibited in passenger carry-on baggage, at all times.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

These can be carried on our ships if they are firmly packaged or secured to prevent them from moving.

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, are restricted to a maximum of two (02) - five 18L (5 gallons) containers for personal use, and must have been obtained through a retail outlet which serves the public.

FIREWORKS

“Common fireworks” are permitted on passenger vessels as long as they are in Class 1.4S (formerly Class C Common Fireworks), and are packaged in their original manufacturer’s packaging. Open packages of fireworks are prohibited. The transportation of these devices is not to exceed an aggregate weight of 5 kg (11 lbs).

GASOLINE/METHANOL

Approved spare containers are permitted on our ferries, but only in limited amounts. Can not exceed two (02) - 23L (6 gallons) containers.

CLEANSERS

Bleach and other household cleansers may be carried on our ferries, however, in order to avoid the harmful fumes which can be generated by the interaction of these products if the motion of the vessel should cause them to spill, they must be in a carton designed to keep them upright and secure.

ACETYLENE

This is a prohibited item and can not be transported on any AMHS Ferry.

DRY ICE

This is classified by DOT as a “miscellaneous” hazard, Class 9. Small amounts of dry ice 2.3 kg. (5 lbs) are permitted in a package that allows venting of carbon dioxide gas.

ADHESIVES

Adhesive products containing flammable liquid (such as Contact Cement) must be in the original container (unopened) and stored in a carton designed to keep them upright and secure. Quantities are limited to an aggregate of 38L (10 gallons).

AUTOMOTIVE ANTIFREEZE

This is not considered to be Hazardous Material; 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.

BATTERIES, AUTOMOTIVE

In addition to the battery needed for the operation of a vehicle, new / spare or used batteries, (up to 3) are permitted. Batteries which are used (installed) for auxiliary (and/or boats) or recreational equipment are not applicable to this section.

OXYGEN

Personal medical oxygen is permitted; Customers must notify terminal staff if they are carrying personal medical oxygen.

OXYGEN - NON-MEDICAL/SERVICE

A maximum of two cylinders provided they are secured in or on the vehicle.

AIR BOTTLES, SCUBA TANKS

Tanks are to be transported in closed, locked vehicles or in open vehicles, provided the tanks are securely stowed and out of sight.

HAY (BALED)

May be carried, but must be dry and secured within a closed vehicle, or the load must be completely covered with a tarp to prevent random ignition. No more than 5 bales per one vehicle.

WHEELCHAIRS (Motorized)

There are no restrictions on wheelchairs 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For all inquiries about the transportation of hazardous materials, contact the Terminal Manager at the terminal of departure.

If the information in this document does not answer your concerns and you have difficulty reaching the terminals, please email your concerns to us to ask_amhs@alaska.gov or send a fax to (907) 225-1513 and we will respond to you as soon as we can.

PRIMARY AMHS TELEPHONE AND FAX NUMBER

State of Alaska
DOT & PF
Alaska Marine Highway System
7559 North Tongass Highway
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Telephone: (907) 228-7255
Fax: (907) 225-1513
E-Mail: ask_amhs@alaska.gov

TERMINAL TELEPHONE AND FAX NUMBERS

TERMINAL	TELEPHONE	FAX
ANGOON	(907) 228-7290	(907) 225-1516
AUKE BAY	(907) 789-5002	(907) 789-2165
BELLINGHAM	(360) 676-8445	(360) 676-7663
CORDOVA	(907) 424-7333	(907) 424-7533
HAINES	(907) 766-2111	(907) 766-2239
HOMER	(907) 235-8449	(907) 235-1870
HOONAH	(907) 228-7290	(907) 225-1516
KAKE	(907) 228-7290	(907) 225-1516
KETCHIKAN	(907) 225-6182	(907) 247-6181
KODIAK	(907) 486-3800	(907) 486-6166
METLAKATLA	(907) 228-7290	(907) 225-1516
PELICAN	(907) 228-7290	(907) 225-1516
PETERSBURG	(907) 772-3855	(907) 772-4117
PRINCE RUPERT	(250) 627-1744	(250) 624-9554
SELDOVIA	(907) 228-7290	(907) 225-1516
SITKA	(907) 747-8737	(907) 747-3076
SKAGWAY	(907) 228-7290	(907) 225-1516
TENAKEE	(907) 228-7290	(907) 225-1516
VALDEZ	(907) 835-4436	(907) 835-4863
WHITTIER	(907) 472-2378	(907) 472-2471
WRANGELL	(907) 874-2021	(907) 874-2041