



Transportation of Hazardous Materials

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1-800-642-0066

INFORMATION FOR NON-COMMERCIAL SHIPPERS

All Hazardous Materials must be declared. 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.

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 our toll free number or your nearest terminal and we will be happy to help.

For those traveling on our southern routes, the Port of Prince Rupert may impose additional 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.

DEFINITIONS

HAZ-MAT: Hazardous Material

Empty Container: Although they may be “empty”, drums, tanks, or other containers which once contained hazardous materials, (usually flammable liquids) are still against 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 is usually used to transport fuel. They may or may not be permitted.

HAZ-MAT COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED BY AMHS

The Master or Loading Officer of the vessel has the authority to prohibit the loading of any item deemed unsuitable for passage. To avoid potential issues with transporting hazardous materials please send an email inquiry 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 100 kg (220.5 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.

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 1.4-S (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 (11lbs).

GASOLINE / METHANOL: Approved spare containers are permitted on our ferries, but only in limited amounts, Cannot 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 cannot 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).

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 a vehicle.

BATTERIES, AUTOMOTIVE: In addition to the battery needed for the operation of a vehicle, new, spare or used batteries are permitted to a total quantity of three. Batteries which are installed for auxiliary power, in a boat or recreational equipment are not applicable to this section.

AUTOMOTIVE ANTIFREEZE: This is not considered to be hazardous material; therefore it is not regulated and can be carried in any amount.

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

AIR BOTTLES, SCUBA TANKS: Tanks are to be transported in closed, locked vehicles. If they are transported in an open vehicle, such as the bed of a pick-up truck, the tanks should be out of sight.

BALED HAY: Is permitted on passenger vessels as long as it is packaged in sealed containers, such as a cargo trailer or van, or covered by a conventional truck topper so the material is fully enclosed.
Open pickup truck: A limit of 5 dry bales of hay or straw.

MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIRS: 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.