
Section 17

Transportation of Pesticides



In Ontario, you must be a Certified Grower if you wish to purchase and use Schedule 1, 2 or 5 pesticides on your farm. However, you do not need to be a Certified Grower or a Trained Assistant to pick pesticide products up from the vendor. Someone else may pick the pesticides up and transport them directly back to the farm.

Everyone who transports pesticides in Ontario must follow the laws and regulations regarding safe transportation of pesticides. The federal and provincial governments work together to ensure the safe transportation of pesticides.

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act

Some pesticides may be classified as Dangerous Goods under the **Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and Regulations**. Before you transport any pesticide, make sure you know whether or not it is classified as a Dangerous Good.

The **Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and Regulations** is administered by Transport Canada at the federal level, and the **Dangerous Goods Transportation Act and Regulations** is administered by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation at the provincial level. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation and the Ontario Provincial Police are responsible for enforcing these laws on the Ontario highways.

The Regulations identify the nine classes of Dangerous Goods. A pesticide may be classified into one or more classes depending on its hazards. For example, a pesticide may be classified as “poisonous”, “corrosive”, “flammable” and/or “a product that is hazardous to the environment”.

Not all pesticides are included in the list of Dangerous Goods. For example, Roundup is not classified as a Dangerous Good. If a pesticide does not meet a particular hazard criteria in the Regulations, it is not classified as a Dangerous Good. Always check with your pesticide supplier to ask whether any of the pesticides you transport are classified as Dangerous Goods.

Penalties

The purpose of these laws is to protect public safety when dangerous goods are being transported. Anyone who does not comply with these Acts or Regulations can be fined up to \$100,000 on a summary conviction and may be jailed for two years. However, a court order can increase the amount of the fine, up to a maximum of one million dollars. Also, you can be prohibited from engaging in any activity regulated under the Acts. If you can prove that you took all reasonable measures to comply, then you may be found not guilty under the due diligence clause.

Requirements



If the pesticide you are transporting or offering to transport is regulated as a Dangerous Good(s) and it does not fall under any exemption listed below, you must follow the requirements of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and Regulations. You must:

- < be properly trained
- < use the required shipping documents
- < affix proper labels and markings on the shipping cartons/containers
- < use the proper number of Dangerous Goods placards on the transporting vehicle
- < report spills and accidents to the proper authorities.

Exemptions for Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road

Under specific circumstances, pesticides classified as Dangerous Goods are exempt from **some** federal/provincial requirements for Dangerous Goods.

Exception!

There are **no** exemptions if the pesticide you are transporting is classified as a **poisonous or corrosive gas**, or a substance that produces a **flammable gas when mixed with water**. Methyl bromide is one pesticide used in Ontario that is a poisonous gas. You must follow all the TDG requirements for these pesticides.

1. Transport between the retail store and the farm or place of use

You are exempt from the Dangerous Goods Regulations when you are transporting most pesticides by road between the retail outlet and your farm or the place they will be used. The pesticide **must** be in the original packaging and/or container, and each container must hold **less than 454 L** (100 gals).

Currently there is no load limit placed on this exemption under the Dangerous Goods Regulations. However, there are weight restrictions based on the registered gross weight of your vehicle under The Highway Traffic Act. Be safe. Do not overload your vehicle as it may negatively affect the vehicle's braking mechanism.

2. Transport from the farm to the place of use by a farm-plated vehicle

When transporting pesticides by road from the farm to the place of use you are exempt from the Dangerous Goods Regulations as long as you:

- < carry less than 500 kg of pesticide (weight of the load including the container)
- < the distance is less than 50 km, and
- < display **on each container or package** the labels or markings that were on the container or package when you bought the product.

3. Transport from the farm to the place of use by a non-farm plated vehicle

There are different requirements for vehicles that are not farm-plated. For **any** quantity and **any** distance you must:

- < display **on each container or package** the labels or markings that were on the container or other package when you bought the product
- < carry proper shipping papers, and
- < make sure that the person transporting the pesticide has a valid **Transportation of Dangerous Goods** training certificate. The training certificate is valid for three years.

You need to display the appropriate Dangerous Goods placards on your truck if:

- < you are carrying **more than 500 kg** of any product that is regulated as a Dangerous Good.

Note: Currently there are no placards for products which are classified as 9.2. This may change in the future.

4. Transport of tanks containing pesticides or pesticide solutions regulated as Dangerous Goods

Tanks that hold 5,000 litres or less of pesticide concentrate or pesticide solution must carry the appropriate Dangerous Goods placards before and after the pesticide application. No product identification number is required on the placard.

Find out what Dangerous Goods Regulations apply to your situation. Ask your farm supply outlet for information about the products you're transporting.

All manufacturing, formulating, or wholesale companies that handle pesticides should be familiar with the details of the requirements.

Commercial pesticide applicators who transport pesticides from storage areas to application sites or to other storage sites should be familiar with the requirements for the specific pesticides they handle.

Consider taking a Transportation of Dangerous Goods training course. Check Transport Canada's web site located at www.tc.gc.ca/tdg/info/training/train_org.htm for a list of organizations that provide Transportation of Dangerous Goods training.

Pesticides Act

When transporting **all pesticides** in Ontario, you must meet the requirements under the **Ontario Pesticides Act and Regulation**.

All pesticides must be:

1. Separated from other commodities



The Regulation states: “No person shall transport or cause or permit the transportation of any Schedule 1, 2, 3, or 5 pesticide together with commodities that are,

- a) food or drink intended for human or animal consumption
- b) household furnishings, or
- c) toiletries, clothes, bedding or similar commodities

by a vehicle operated on any highway or road unless the pesticide being transported is separated from such commodities in a manner sufficient to prevent their contamination or likely contamination by the pesticide”. (Reg. 914, s.127)

2. Secured in the vehicle



The Regulation states: “No person shall transport or cause or permit the transportation of a pesticide by a vehicle operated on any highway or road unless the pesticide is secured in a manner sufficient to prevent the escape or discharge of the pesticide from the vehicle”. (Reg. 914, s.126)

A secure load is also a requirement of the Regulations under The Highway Traffic Act.



You must not leave any pesticide unsupervised in a vehicle unless:

- < the vehicle is in a place not accessible to the public, or
- < the pesticide is locked in an enclosed part of the vehicle (but not the cab or passenger area) (Reg. 914, s.120.1)
- < the vehicle has a sign which says, “Chemical (or Pesticide) Storage Warning - Authorized Persons Only” (Reg. 914, s.120.2)

For more information see “Storage During Transportation” in the How to Store Pesticides Safely section of this manual.

How to Prepare for Safe Transportation

1. **Carefully inspect each container of pesticide before you accept it for transportation.** Make sure there are no broken bags or cartons and no leaking liquid containers. Do not accept any damaged containers.
2. **Load containers carefully to prevent any movement or breakage during transit.** Take extra care with liquid pesticides. Make sure the containers are stacked securely so there is no chance they will break or spill. A spill will contaminate the other containers and the vehicle itself. If you should have a spill, do not use the other contaminated packages. Return them to the manufacturer for disposal or repackaging.

What to Do if There is a Spill

Protect Yourself and Others from the Spill

- < Make sure that no one enters the vehicle without wearing the recommended protective clothing and equipment.
- < If a closed vehicle is involved, open all doors to ensure maximum ventilation before anyone enters the vehicle to examine or remove its contents.

Report the Spill

- < **If the pesticide is classified as a Dangerous Good**, you must report the spill to the local police department if the amount of the spill meets the reporting requirements of the Dangerous Goods Regulation. The minimum reporting quantities for spills vary for each class of Dangerous Good. Make sure that you know the reporting requirement for each Dangerous Good you transport. For example, you must report spills of Class 6.1 products if the amount spilled is greater than 5 litres or 5 kilograms. For Class 3 products, you must report spills if the amount is greater than 200 litres.
- < **If the spill may be harmful to humans or the environment you must report it to:**
The Spills Action Centre 1-800-268-6060.
You may also contact the local Ontario Ministry of the Environment office and local police department.
- < **If the spill occurs as the result of a highway accident**, you must notify the local police department immediately.

Clean and Decontaminate the Vehicle

- < Follow the steps described in the MSDS for the specific product.

See the Pesticide Spills section of this manual for more information.

Review Questions

1. If you do not comply with the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act (TDGA) and Regulations (TDGR), you may be fined up to \$100,000 and/or spend two years in jail.

TRUE

FALSE

2. List the five major requirements that must be followed to transport a dangerous goods under the TDGA and Regulations.

3. Pesticide purchasers and users may be exempt from the TDGA and Regulations under specific conditions.

TRUE

FALSE

4. You have purchased 400 litres of pesticide and are transporting it in your truck from the retail store to your farm which is 35 km away. Your truck is not licensed as a farm plated vehicle. Do you require any vehicle warning signs, shipping documents or special product labels?

