UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH | Health, Safety & Wellness
Human Resources

Transportation of Dangerous Goods - Common Exemptions Agricultural Operations at Ridgetown Campuses and Research Stations

Purpose of This Guide

This guide provides a simple overview of common Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) exemptions that may apply to agricultural operations at university campuses, farms, and research stations. These exemptions can reduce some TDG requirements when specific conditions are met. When conditions are not met, full TDG regulations apply. Refer to the full exemption for complete information on the conditions.

Section 1.15 — 150 kg Gross Mass Exemption

This exemption applies to small quantities of dangerous goods (DG) in which individual containers weigh 30 kg or less and the gross weight of all dangerous goods containers 150 kg or less.

Common products covered under this exemption include small fuel cans, propane cylinders, paint, and small pesticide containers.

This exempts users from:

- shipping documents,
- placards,
- UN packaging requirements,
- TDG training, and
- reporting.

The DG must be transported by a user or purchaser of DG or by the retailer delivering directly to the purchaser or user. It doesn't apply if a third-party shipper is used.

Examples:

A worker transports 3 × 25 L gasoline cans (less than 30 kg per container) + 1 × 20 kg propane cylinder. Each container is under 30 kg. Gross load is under 150

kg. A worker transports 4 small pesticide containers, 10–20 kg each, + 2 × 20 kg of diesel fuel. No container exceeds 30 kg. Total combined mass stays under 150 kg. Full details of the exemption see: https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2001-286/section-1.15.html

Section 1.17 — Limited Quantities Exemption

This exemption allows certain dangerous goods to be transported in small quantities with reduced TDG requirements. To qualify, the amount in each inner container must be less than the limit listed in Column 6(a) of Schedule 1 of TDG regulations, and the outer package must not exceed 30 kg gross weight. The outer package must be marked with a limited quantity symbol.



Image showing TDG limited quantity outer packaging requirements for road, rail or vessel transport. A cardboard box displays a diamond-shaped mark with black top and bottom sections and a white centre. Maximum gross package mass is 30 kg, including contents and packaging. The mark must measure at least 100 × 100 mm, reducible to 50 × 50 mm when package size requires, with an outline at least 2 mm wide. Dangerous goods in each inner container must not exceed the quantity limit in Schedule 1, column 6(a), of the TDG Regulations.

When the conditions are met, this exempts users from:

- shipping documents,
- safety marks, placards,
- UN standardized packaging
- TDG training, and
- some reporting requirements.

This exemption is commonly used for products such as aerosols, paints and cleaning chemicals.

Examples:

Worker transports aerosol cans for maintenance activities, provided each can meets the limited quantity threshold and the total package weight does not exceed 30 kg. The outer package displays the limited quantity mark.

A researcher transports small containers of paint for a field project, with each inner container below the allowable limit and the total package weight under 30 kg. The limited quantity mark is visible on the box.

A researcher ships small volumes of flammable fixatives and solvents used for sample preparation, with each container below the limited quantity threshold and the outer package remaining under 30 kg. The package is properly marked to indicate limited quantities.

This exemption does not apply when shipping infectious biological samples.

For full details of the exemption see: https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2001-286/section-1.17.html

Section 1.22 — Agriculture: 3,000 kg Gross Mass Farm Retail Exemption

This exemption allows certain dangerous goods to be transported by road from a retailer to a destination, such as farms, agricultural research stations, or university campuses, for farming purposes only. The transport must occur within 100 km of the place where the dangerous goods are loaded, and the total gross mass of dangerous goods must not exceed 3,000 kg. This exemption is intended for agricultural operations related to transport of dangerous goods from retailers. Common products covered are pesticides, herbicides, diesel fuel, gasoline, and fertilizers. Products not covered include toxic gases, radioactive materials, infectious substances, explosives, and flammable gas cylinders.

When conditions are met, users are exempt from:

- shipping documents (if there is not a requirement for an Emergency Response Action plan),
- safety marks and placards, and
- UN standardized packing

TDG training is required, and a person transporting the goods must carry their TDG certificate. Reporting requirements are maintained.

Examples:

Fertilizer – a worker buys less than 3,000 kg of fertilizer from a retailer and transport this to the farm, which is less than 100 km away from the retailer

Mixed farm chemicals to a research station – research station orders 1,000 kg herbicide + 800kg pesticide + 500 kg diesel fuel (gross mass less than 3,000 kg). The order is picked up or delivered to research station that is less than 100 km away from supplier

Propane cylinders for common agricultural use – a worker transports several propane cylinders that weigh less than 3,000 kg from a supplier to research station which is less than 100 km away from supplier.

For full details of the exemption see: https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2001-286/section-1.22.html

Section 1.23 — Agricultural Pesticide Exemption

This exemption applies to the mixing, loading, transport, under 100 km, and field application of pesticides used in agricultural operations. It typically covers equipment, including field sprayers and mixed spray tanks, moving between farm sites or nearby fields. It is intended for short distances, on- farm pesticide use, where the material is being actively prepared and applied.

For the exemption to apply during loading and mixing, DG must be in a spray or bulk tank between 450L and 6000L. Only one means of containment is permitted during the operation, such as one spray tank system involved in the mixing and loading, and this must be directly related to the immediate agricultural application

Limitations to this exemption include highly hazardous pesticides, quantities >6000L, and long highway distances, which may require full TDG compliance.

When all conditions of Section 1.23 are met, no TDG training certificate is required, and a person transporting the goods does not need TDG shipping documents.

Examples:

Mixing – a worker mixes herbicide concentrate with water, loads into a 1200L field sprayer tank, drives 5 km to a field, and immediately sprays crops

Transport Between Nearby Fields – a worker fills a 500L sprayer tank at the farm drives less than 100 km on public roads and applies pesticide at another field

For full details of the exemption see: https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2001-286/page-5.html

Remember

- Exemptions only apply when all conditions are met.

- If uncertain whether an exemption applies, consult the TDG Regulations or Health, Safety and Wellness, labsafe@uoguelph.ca

TDG Agricultural Operations - Common Exemptions Comparison

Exemption / Special Conditions	Dangerous Goods Included	Part 3: Documentation	Part 5: Means of Containment	Part 6: Training
Section 1.15	small fuel cans propane cylinders paint and small pesticide containers	shipping documents not required and placards not required	UN packaging requirements do not apply	exempt: TDG training not required.
Section 1.17	aerosols paints cleaning chemicals small volumes of flammable solvents.	shipping documents not required and safety marks and placards are not required, but the limited quantity mark is required	UN packaging requirements do not apply	exempt: TDG training not required.
Section 1.22	pesticides herbicides diesel fuel gasoline fertilizers	exempt only if an ERAP is not required and safety marks and placards not required	UN packaging requirements do not apply	required: transporter must carry a TDG certificate.
Section 1.23	pesticides used in agricultural operations including mixtures in field sprayers and spray tanks Highly hazardous pesticides above 6,000 L and long highway distances may require full TDG compliance.	shipping documents not required when all conditions are met.	One means of containment only: spray or bulk tank of 450-6,000 L, directly related to immediate agricultural application.	exempt: TDG training not required