

Dangerous Goods

The objective of the Dangerous Goods Safety Management Act 2001 is to protect the safety of:

- ⇒ persons and prevent harm to property and the environment from hazardous materials.
- ⇒ The DGSM Act and Regulations require Council to monitor the safety standards in relation to the storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids through licensing such premises.
- ⇒ Due to their potential to cause a fire they are considered to present such a large risk that special provision for their storage and handling are needed.

Legislation

Whether you require a licence will depend on a number of things, including:

- ⇒ the amount and type of flammable and combustible liquids stored by your business
- ⇒ the type of business you operate
- ⇒ where and how the flammable and combustible liquids are stored.

Anyone storing or handling flammable liquids (i.e.. petrol, thinners, kerosene, degreasing oil, lighter fluid, aviation fluid) or combustible liquids (i.e.. diesel oil, distillate, brake fluid, waste oil, transmission fluid) above minor storage quantities (as specified in Australian Standard 1940-2004 "The Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids") requires a licence. For example service stations, factories and workshops, commercial buildings, shops, educational establishments, laboratories etc.

Who does not need a Licence

All storage of flammable and combustible liquids requires a licence unless the following apply:

- ⇒ storage on land for more than 5 hectares used for agriculture, unless the storage is for resale
- ⇒ where the storage is classified as minor storage by AS1940.
- ⇒ locations where AS1940 does not apply. For example transport of flammable liquids,
- ⇒ the handling of flammable liquids in port areas and shipboard installations, potable liquids in containers lower than 5L, liquefied gases maintained in liquid phase by a means of pressure or refrigeration
- ⇒ temporary field storage for the Australian Defence Force Fuel tanks of vehicles or equipment
- ⇒ Domestic oil fired installations

Domestic premises generally may store 250 litres of petrol (PG1, II and III) or 500 litres of diesel oil outdoors, uncovered or in a shed or garage, separated from the residence or any structure or boundary by either 3 metres of space or a wall having an fire rating of 180/180/180 from the dwelling. Please check with Environmental Health at the Council for confirmation of these requirements.

If your storage does not require a licence you still have a responsibility to comply with the legislation and other required applications to ensure the safe storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids. These requirements may include safety signage, fire extinguishers, spill containment provisions, separation from boundaries of the land etc.

Applying for a Proposed New Installation OR Amendment to an Existing Licence:

This section applies to proposed new installations and amending an existing licence.

Note: You will need to complete the necessary application and pay the required fees when you lodge your plans.

Stage 1 - Approval to Proceed (Plan Approval)

Step 1: Town Planning Approval

Contact Council's Development Section to seek advice as to whether your proposal is allowable development under the Town Plan for that particular site.

Step 2: Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS).

Contact Council's Development Section to seek advice for application requirements for approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994. You may also need to speak to the Public Health and Environmental if the business is classified as an Environmentally Relevant Activity under the Environmental Protection Act.

Step 3: Environmental Health Approval

Complete and submit the dangerous goods application form together with plans and appropriate fee's to Council's Public Health and Environmental Services Unit. It is strongly recommended that the plans be prepared by a person/company who is familiar with the legislation e.g. a dangerous goods consultant.

⇒ Application to store Flammable and Combustible Liquids.

Step 4: Decision of Plan Assessment

When approval has been granted from relevant Council departments, your plan will be approved also and you will be provided with written confirmation of your approval to proceed in the form of a Development Application Decision Notice. Outlined in the terms of the dangerous goods application submitted to Council's Public Health and Environmental Services, you will be notified and given approval with any relevant conditions.

If additional information is required, or the application has not yet received clearance from other Sections, you will also be notified. Be aware that you are not permitted to construct or alter a premises without prior approval.

Stage 2 - Approval to Operate (Obtaining a Licence to Store Flammable & Combustible Liquids)

Step 1: Final Inspection

When the installation, construction or alteration is completed and is ready for operation, you are required to contact Council's Public Health and Environmental Services Unit and arrange a time for an Environmental Health Officer to inspect the installation before you even commence operation.

Step 2: Application for Licence (Approval to Operate)

Your approval to operate (licence) will be sent to you once the application for licence and relevant fee/s have been received and an EHO has completed a final inspection. If approval is conditional on other work being carried out, a time frame will be negotiated in which the outstanding work must be completed.

Sale of Business (Transfer of Dangerous Goods Licence to New Occupier)

This section applies to businesses that have new occupiers or have undergone a sale.

Note: You will need to complete the necessary application and pay the required fee/s.

Step 1: Applying for Transfer of Licence

Complete and lodge the application to transfer a licence and pay the appropriate fee. Your approval to operate (licence) will be sent to you once the application for transfer and relevant fee/s have been received. A copy of the relevant licence conditions will be sent with the licence.

⇒ Application to Transfer Licence to store Flammable and Combustible Liquids

Closing a Business (Surrendering Licence)

This section applies to businesses that are no longer operating and wish to surrender their licence.

Step 1: Applying for Surrender of Licence

Please advise Council in writing of your intention to cease operating the business and supply any relevant information regarding decommissioning the tanks etc.

Step 2: Cancellation of Licence

The surrender application will be assessed to ensure that the decommissioning of all tanks has occurred and the relevant licence has been returned to Council. A confirmation letter will be issued once the licence has been cancelled.

For further information on this topic, please contact:

Public Health and Environmental Services Unit at Mount Isa City Council on 4747 3200.

Click the following link to obtain a copy of an application form.

[Application/Renewal/Transfer for a Licence to Store Flammable Combustible Liquids](#)