

A technical publication from Alberta EDGE  
(Environmental and Dangerous Goods Emergencies)

# All about Permit for Equivalent Level of Safety

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Technical Standard Branch  
Main Floor, Twin Atria Building  
4999-98 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3  
Tel. Edmonton: 780-422-9600  
Tel. Province-wide: 1-800-272-9600  
Fax: 780-427-1044

This material is meant as a guide to certain parts of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations and is not meant to be a substitute for them. It is the responsibility of handlers, offerers and transporters of dangerous goods to consult the Regulations for the exact requirements. Alberta EDGE (Environmental and Dangerous Goods Emergencies) of Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors can provide accurate information regarding the Regulations 24 hours a day.

These telephone lines are recorded to assist in responding to the emergency (natural /manmade) and/or inquiry regarding Dangerous Goods and to ensure that the information is accurate. Direct any questions regarding the recording to the Regulatory Compliance Office responding to your call or contact the manager of Alberta EDGE at 780-427-8660. Legal Authority: Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Act, Section 13(1).

*For more information regarding this bulletin visit:*

<https://www.alberta.ca/safety-bulletins-and-notices-transportation-of-dangerous-goods.aspx>

## Introduction

Federal Equivalency Certificates are addressed in Part 14 of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Regulations. Alberta Permits for Equivalent Level of Safety are addressed in Section 5 of the Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Act (Alberta).

The Permit for Equivalent Level of Safety is the only type of permit issued for the transportation of dangerous goods in Alberta. This permit provides for the handling, offering for transport or transporting of dangerous goods in a manner that does not necessarily comply with the TDG Regulations but provides a level of safety equivalent to that required in the TDG Regulations. Permits are only issued if health, safety and the environment are not compromised.

It is **not** necessary to obtain a permit to handle, offer for transport or transport dangerous goods if the TDG Act and Regulations are fully complied with.

Permits issued by Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors, are valid only for road transportation within the province of Alberta. Transport Canada issues Equivalency Certificate that are valid for the transportation of dangerous goods between provinces.

## Who can use the Permit?

Permits issued to an organization apply to all branches and vehicles operated by that organization. A permit issued to an organization applies to their shipments and a copy of the permit must accompany the shipment through to the final destination. The permit will be applicable to all subsequent organizations or individuals who receive the product and have to reship it, provided it is not shipped outside Alberta. If the product is shipped outside of Alberta, then a federal Equivalency Certificate would be required.

Although the permit may be used by any organization or individual who is receiving the product and reshipping it, Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors recommends that any organization or individual involved in handling or transporting a product (for example, subcontractors) apply for a permit in their own name. This provides flexibility for the permit holder who may be contracted to more than one company.

Several associations have applied for permits on behalf of their members. If you are an active member of an industry association, you can contact Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors to inquire on whether the association has been issued the permit that your organization requires. Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors will not supply a copy of an association's permit to individuals but it will provide information such as the type of permit, the expiry date and the association representative's name and telephone number. Individuals can then consult with their association to obtain a copy of the permit.

## Applying for the Permit

In order to obtain a permit it is necessary to submit an application to Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors. Alberta EDGE (Environmental and Dangerous Goods Emergencies) (1-800-272-9600) can assist you in selecting the appropriate permit. The application form (see sample at the end of this document) must have the following information:

- the name of the individual, company or an association;
- the address of the place of business of the applicant;
- the telephone number, including the area code, and, if applicable, the facsimile number of the applicant;
- the classification of the dangerous goods, including the UN number, shipping name and class/division;
- the method of packaging the dangerous goods, including a description of the means of containment and the quantity of dangerous goods in each means of containment;
- a description of the proposal for a permit for equivalent level of safety, including
  - the sections of the Act or the TDG Regulations that the applicant proposes not to comply with,
  - the manner in which the activity will be carried out and how that manner will provide a level of safety at least equivalent to that provided by compliance with the Act and the TDG Regulations, and
  - drawings, plans, calculations, procedures, test results and any other information necessary to support the proposal; and
- the applicant's name must be printed at the bottom of the application form and the form must be signed and dated.

Once Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors receives the permit application, it is typically processed within ten business days. Consultation with the applicant may be necessary when the application is not clear or when additional information is required.

Any information provided in the application is collected under the authority of Section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. This information will be used for the purpose of administering the permit and verifying compliance information.

Available permits are listed below.

## PERMIT PRECEDENTS

Precedent	Description
A	Exemption from Parts 2, 3 and 4 for petroleum based fluids of unknown classification for the purposes of recycling, reprocessing or reuse.
A2	Exemption from Parts 2, 3 and 4 for petroleum based fluids of unknown classification for the purposes of recycling, reprocessing or reuse - in small containers.
B	Exemption from Parts 2 and 3 for mixed oilfield production fluids of unknown classification – vacuum trucks. B permit is restricted to vacuum tanks only.
D1	Exemption from Parts 3 and 5 for residues of flammable and corrosive liquids or combinations used by pumping units at oilfield operations.
E1	Exemption from Parts 2, 3 and 4 for test samples from oil/gas field operations to a laboratory contained in large cylinders.
E2	Exemption from Parts 2, 3 and 4 for the road transportation of liquid test samples from oil/gas field operations to a laboratory for classifying, analyzing or testing.
J	Exemption from Parts 2 and 5 for waste filters used in commercial production of oil and gas (Oilfield) from compressor stations.
L1	Exemption from Parts 2, 3 and 4 for known and unknown waste lab chemicals.
M1	Total exemption for collection of roadside debris for removal to temporary storage area for disposal.

Precedent	Description
N	Exemption from Parts 3 and 5 except section 5.1(3) for petroleum liquids and gases used for testing and calibration of Volume Measuring Devices in the petroleum industry and in a portable test facility for well head production evaluation.
R	Exemption from Parts 2, 3 and 4 for the emergency transportation of dangerous goods residues or waste from the scene of a dangerous goods occurrence or an emergency involving dangerous goods.
RS	Exemption from Part 5 for the emergency transportation of dangerous goods in a damaged means of containment.
S	Exemption from Parts 3 and 5 except for section 5.1(3) for Ammonia Solutions, Class 8, UN2672, used in a "scrubber" tank(s) designed to eliminate the escape of hydrogen sulphide during unloading/loading of "sour" liquids.

## Summary of Important Facts about Permits

- Alberta permits apply only to the handling, offering for transport and transporting of dangerous goods by road within the Province of Alberta.
- Alberta permits are issued for a period of two years at no charge. A renewal notice is sent to the permit holder approximately two months prior to the permit expiration date.
- The permit is not a "license" that exempts the company from the overall application of the TDG Regulations and it is subject to withdrawal, amendment and non-renewal.
- All conditions of the permit must be strictly adhered to. Failure to comply with any condition of the permit will render the permit invalid and place the permit holder in a position of total compliance with the TDG Regulations.
- All Alberta permits require that a copy of the permit accompany the shipment. The requirement is necessary to prevent permit holders from being mistakenly challenged for non-compliance with the Regulations, and to assist emergency response personnel. In many cases, the information in the permit replaces the usual required documentation.

- It is the responsibility of the permit holder to immediately inform Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors of any changes that will impact the permit (changes to name, address, telephone, type of dangerous goods). Notification can be made in writing by email, fax, or letter.

**\*NOTE:** Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors discontinued the “K” series of permits on December 31, 2019. Transport Canada now issues Equivalency Certificates for non-specification process tanks, valves, containers, pressure vessels and measuring equipment (formerly the K1 permit) and service and drilling rigs (formerly the K2 and K3 permits).

## Contacts

For questions about permits for the Province of Alberta:

### **Alberta EDGE (Environmental and Dangerous Goods Emergencies)**

#### **Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors**

Main Floor, Twin Atria Building

4999 – 98 Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3

Tel.: 1-800-272-9600 (toll free in Alberta) or 780-422-9600

Fax: 780-427-1044

Email for permit inquiries: [TRANS.dangerousgoods@gov.ab.ca](mailto:TRANS.dangerousgoods@gov.ab.ca)

Email for permit application submission: [TRANS.exemption@gov.ab.ca](mailto:TRANS.exemption@gov.ab.ca)

For Equivalency Certificates for shipments between provinces:

### **Transport of Dangerous Goods Directorate**

#### **Transport Canada**

330 Sparks Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N5

Tel.: 1-855-298-1520

Fax: 613-993-5925

Email: [tdgapprovals@tc.gc.ca](mailto:tdgapprovals@tc.gc.ca)

### **Attachments:**

- Application for an Alberta Permit for Equivalent Level of Safety Exemption Permit

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### Part 1, Application

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Company Name: <i>As appears on registration</i>		MVID:
Mailing Address:		
City:	Province:	Postal Code:
Contact Name:		Contact Phone:
Contact Email:		

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### Part 2, Permit Information

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**A) New Permit Application:** *(if renewing permit, skip to section B on page 2)*


Permit Precedent Requested:		
Recommended By:	Alberta EDGE <input type="checkbox"/>	DG Inspector <input type="checkbox"/>

#### Dangerous Goods Identification

UN Number	Shipping Name	Class / Division	Means of Containment <small>(Tank/container type, specification, and any other information related to the means of containment. Include all relevant information)</small>	Total Quantity <small>(in litres)</small>
<small>e.g.</small> UN1203	<small>e.g.</small> GASOLINE	<small>e.g.</small> 3	<small>e.g.</small> Non-spec fuel tank (generator)	<small>e.g.</small> 255 L

With which sections of the <i>Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act/Regulations</i> is the company not able to comply?
Why is the company not able to comply fully with the regulatory requirements?
If granted an exemption, how will the company ensure an equivalent level of safety?



	<b>Permitting &amp; Approvals Application Form</b>	<b>Application for Alberta Equivalent Level of Safety Exemption Permit</b> <i>Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Act, Section 5(1)</i>
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**B) Renewal Permit Application:**

Permit Precedent(s) Requested:	Permit Number(s):

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**Part 3, Authorization**

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I certify that I understand and agree to abide by the above requirements, and that information provided in this application is true and correct.

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Print Name

Signature

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Date

**Submit your completed renewal application to [trans.exemptions@gov.ab.ca](mailto:trans.exemptions@gov.ab.ca)**

- A Dangerous Goods Inspector (DGI) may contact you to verify compliance to the permit conditions. Please ensure all contact information is correct.
- Information collected in this application is under the authority of Section 33(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- Information will be used to administer the permit and verify compliance information.
- If you have questions, please contact Central Permitting at 1-800-662-7138.