

# TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS BY ROAD: NATIONAL ROAD TRAFFIC ACT, REGULATIONS AND SANS CODES

## DRIVER AND VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

National Fire Service Indaba 2026  
26 – 27 February 2026

# PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- What is our role as the Fire Department?
- Structure of the legislation.
- SANS Standards.
- Driver Requirements & Fitness.
- Vehicle Requirements: Identification of Dangerous Goods.
- Danger Warning Diamond.
- Vehicle identification.



## GENERAL NOTICE

### NOTICE 379 OF 2014

#### DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE

#### REGULATIONS: THE SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS BY ROAD IN TERMS OF SECTION 15 (1) (e) AND (3) OF THE FIRE BRIGADE SERVICES ACT, 1987 (ACT NO. 99 OF 1987)

Under section 15 of the Fire Brigade Services Act, 1987 (Act No. 99 of 1987), I, Lechesa Tsenoli, hereby intend to:

- (i) make the Regulations, in terms of Section 15 (1) (e) of the Fire Brigade Services Act, 1987 (Act No. 99 of 1987), as set out in the Schedule; and
- (ii) incorporate in terms of Section 15 (3) of the Fire Brigade Services Act, 1987 (Act No. 99 of 1987) SANS 1157 – 2012: “*Transport of dangerous goods — Inspection requirements of road vehicles for the issue of municipal dangerous goods transport permits*” into the Fire Brigade Services Regulations.

The Regulations are hereby published for public comment. Any person wishing to comment on the proposed Regulations is invited to submit written comments to:

General  
Department of Cooperative Governance  
Private Bag x804  
PRETORIA  
0001

# What is

# Legislative Framework

Governed by the National Road Traffic Act (Act 93 of 1996) and SANS codes (e.g., SANS 10228, SANS 10231, SANS 10232).

- The transportation of dangerous goods in South Africa is provided for, in terms of the National Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No. 93 of 1996) and its **Regulations**.

# Legislative Framework (cont.)

## NRTA Regulations - CHAPTER VIII

### *Transportation of dangerous goods and substances by road.*

#### **Reg. 273A. Incorporation of Standards**

- SANS 10228 “The **Identification** and classification of dangerous substances and goods”,
- SANS 10229 “**Packaging** of dangerous goods for road and rail transportation in South Africa”,
- SANS 10230 “**Transportation** of dangerous goods – **Inspection requirements** for road vehicles”,
- SANS 10231 “**Transportation** of dangerous goods – **Operational requirements** for road vehicles”,
- SANS 10232-1 “**Transportation** of dangerous goods”, Part 1: “**Emergency information**”,
- SANS 10232-3 “**Transportation** of dangerous goods”, Part 3: “**Emergency action codes**” and
- SANS 10233 “**Intermediate bulk containers** for dangerous substances”

is incorporated into these regulations by notice published by the Minister in the *Gazette*.

# Legislative Framework (cont.)

## NRTA - CHAPTER VIII

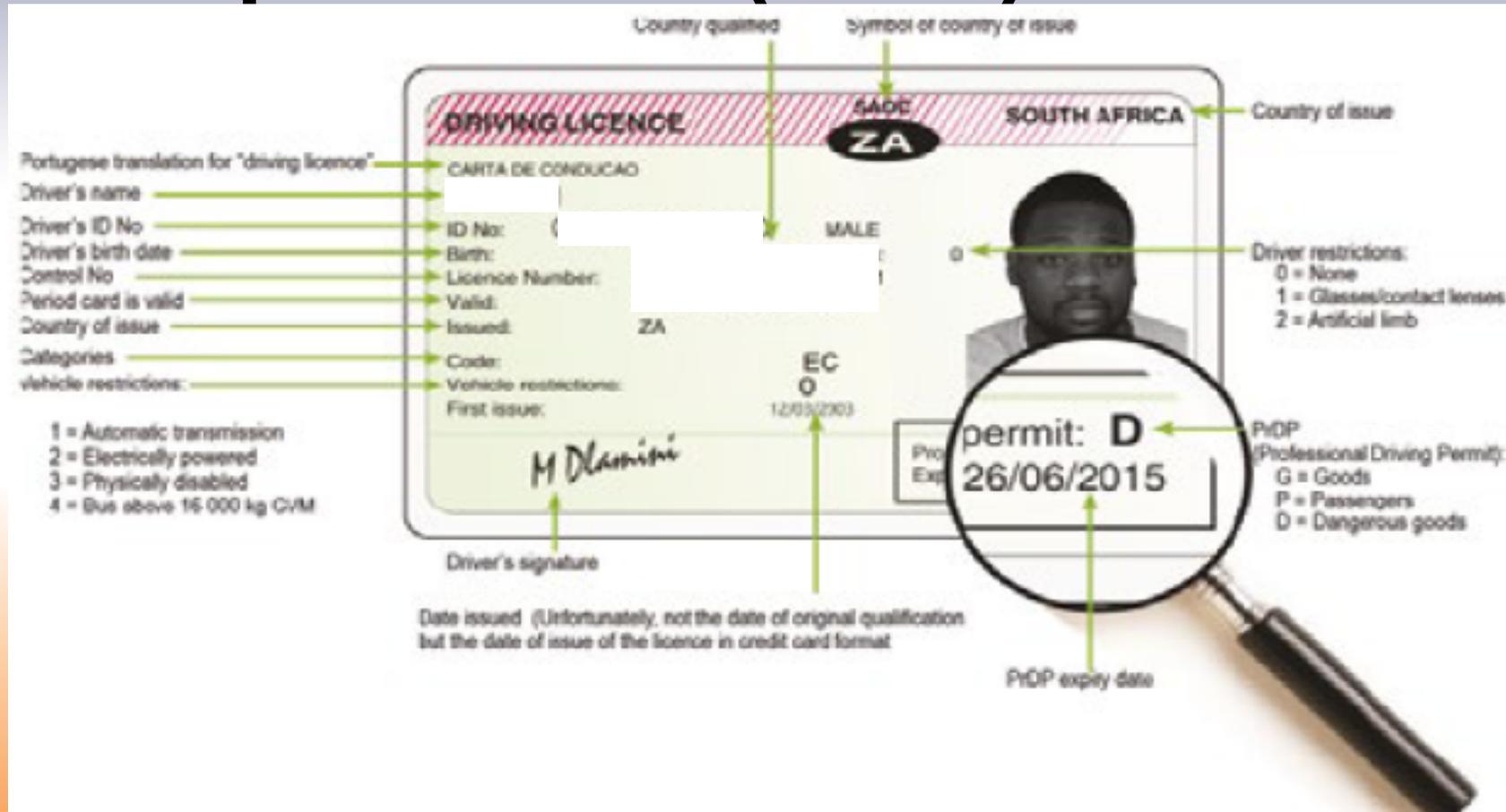
### *Transportation of dangerous goods and substances by road.*

- Section 54 read with Regulation 275 **prohibits the transportation** of dangerous goods ***without*** the necessary documentation.

# Driver Requirements

- Drivers must be **over 25** and hold a **Professional Driving Permit (PrDP)** with a **Dangerous Goods (D)** category, renewable **every two years**, supported by **annual training** certificates.
- An operator shall ensure that a driver **undergoes theoretical and practical training** at an **approved training body** for the **specific class** of dangerous goods that he or she shall be responsible for and **practical training by an accredited body** for the **specific type of vehicle** that he or she shall drive.

# Driver Requirements (cont.)



The diagram shows a South African Driving Licence with the following fields and annotations:

- Country qualified:** SADE
- Symbol of country of issue:** ZA
- Country of issue:** SOUTH AFRICA
- Portuguese translation for "driving licence":** CARTA DE CONDUCAO
- Driver's name:** M Dlamini
- Driver's ID No:** [Redacted]
- Driver's birth date:** [Redacted]
- Control No:** [Redacted]
- Period card is valid:** [Redacted]
- Country of issue:** ZA
- Categories:** EC
- Vehicle restrictions:** 0
- Driver's signature:** M Dlamini
- First issue:** 12/03/2003
- Driver restrictions:** 0 = None, 1 = Glasses/contact lenses, 2 = Artificial limb
- PrDP (Professional Driving Permit):** permit: D
- PrDP expiry date:** 26/06/2015

**Legend for vehicle restrictions:**

- 1 = Automatic transmission
- 2 = Electrically powered
- 3 = Physically disabled
- 4 = Bus above 15 000 kg CVM

**Legend for PrDP:**

- G = Goods
- P = Passengers
- D = Dangerous goods

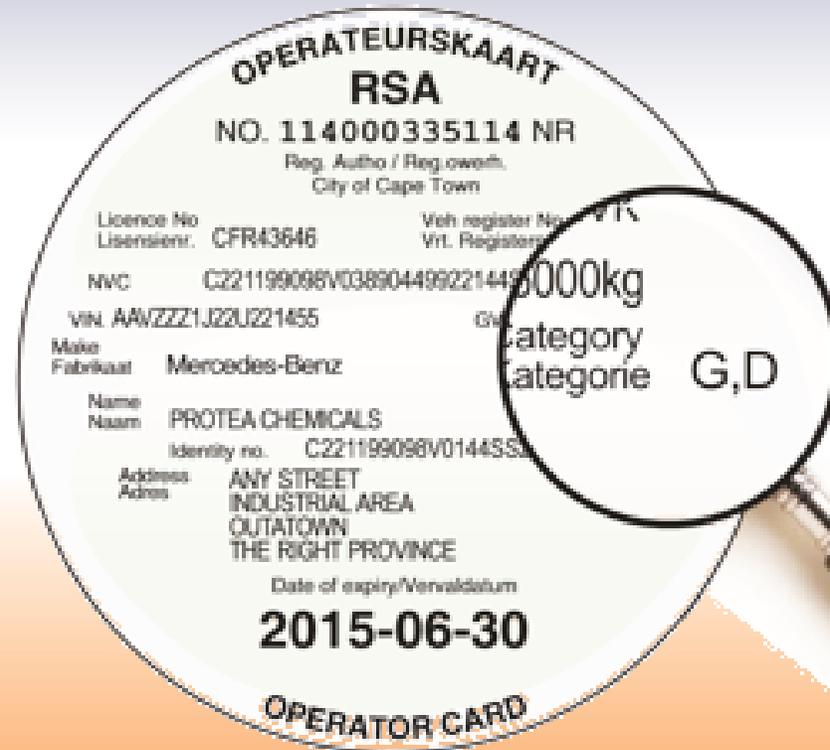
**Note:** Date issued (Unfortunately, not the date of original qualification but the date of issue of the licence in credit card format)

# Vehicle Requirements

- When licensing a vehicle, a transport operator must register with the local vehicle licensing authority, as a dangerous goods operator and ensure that each vehicle used to transport dangerous goods displays a valid “**D**” category operator card issued with the licence disc.
- This includes trailers and semi-trailers and even applies to LDV’s, carrying dangerous goods.

# Vehicle Requirements (cont.)

- **P** - Passengers
- **G** – General Cargo
- **D** – Dangerous Goods
- **GD** – General Cargo & Dangerous Goods



# Vehicle Requirements (cont.)

- Vehicles must display **Dangerous Goods Placards** on the rear and both sides of the vehicle, with a **Plain Orange Diamond** in the front and have a valid certificate of compliance.
- This includes trailers and semi-trailers and even applies to LDV's carrying dangerous goods.
- Placards must be **clean and undamaged**.

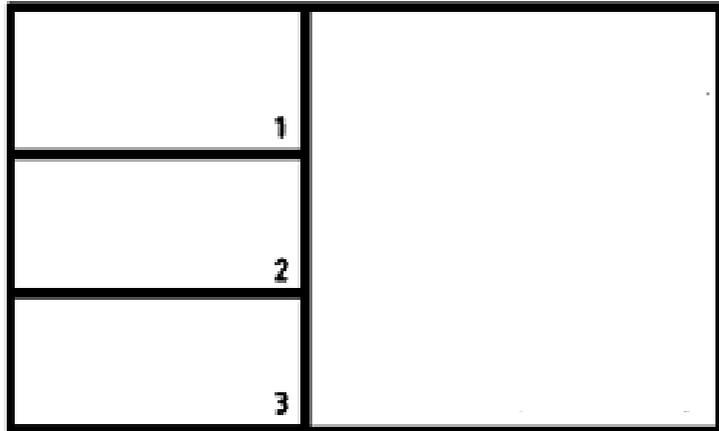


# Vehicle Requirements (cont.)



# Vehicle Requirements (cont.)

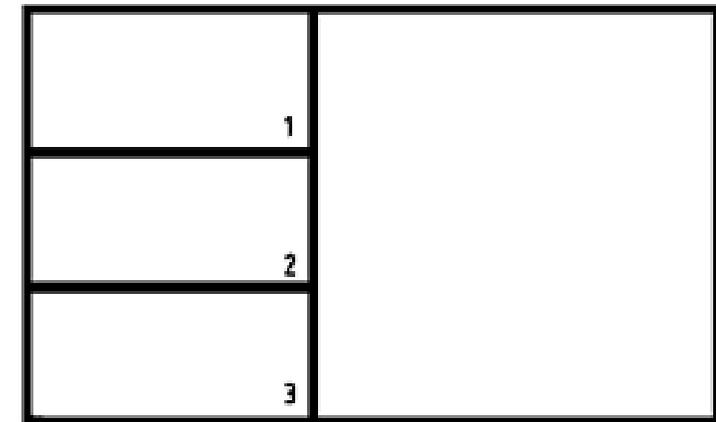
700 mm



400 mm

> 3,500 KG Gross Vehicle Mass

350 mm



200 mm

under 3,500 KG Gross Vehicle Mass

## Road Tankers and packaged goods vehicles

### Front

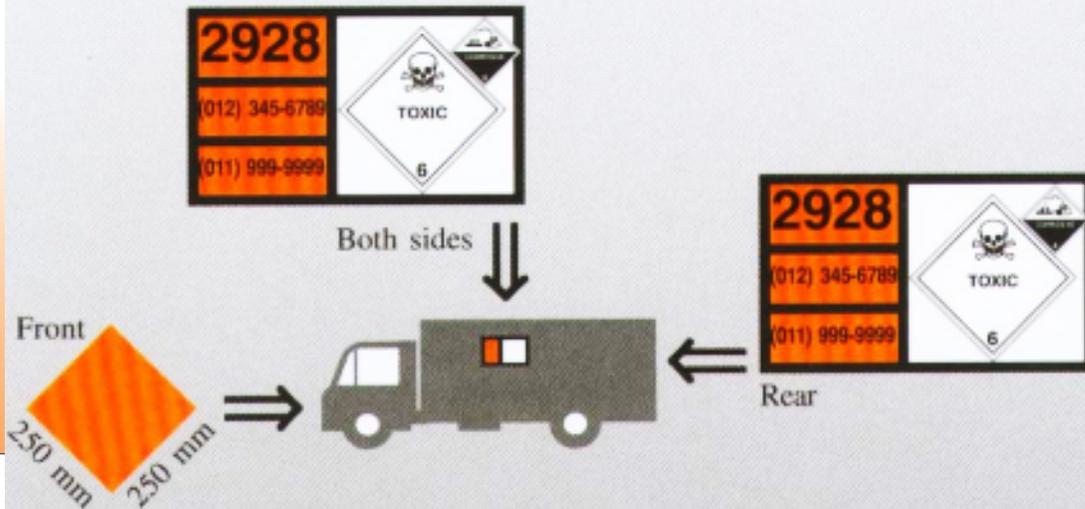
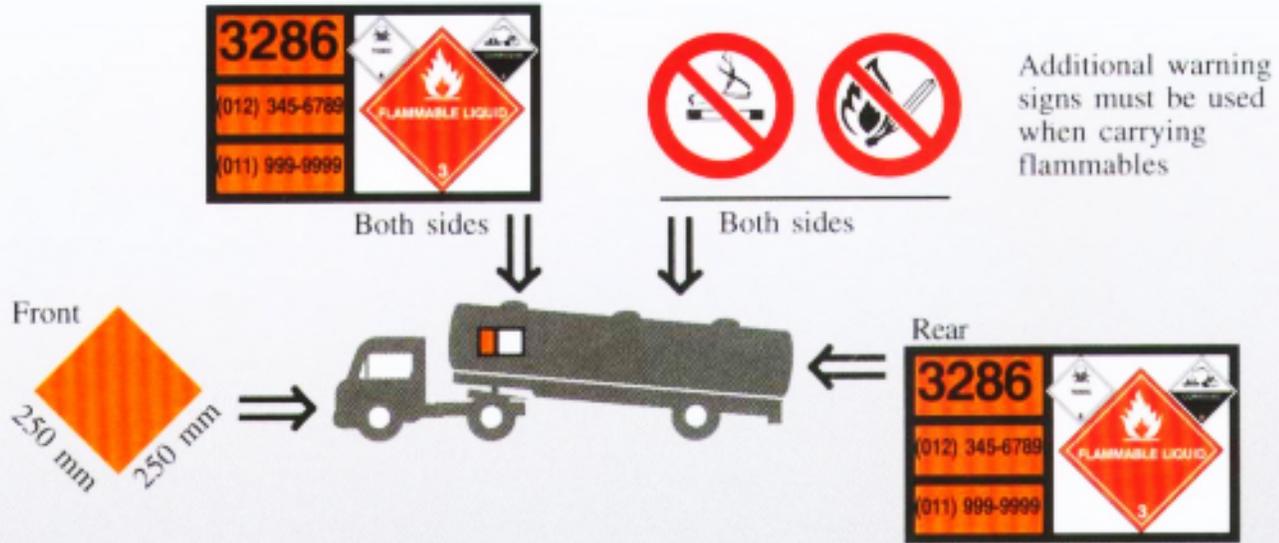
Danger warning diamond (plain orange coloured panel)

### Rear

Placard displaying the appropriate warning diamond, subsidiary risk diamonds (if applicable) and the correct UN number for the goods being transported as well as the 24-hour telephone numbers.

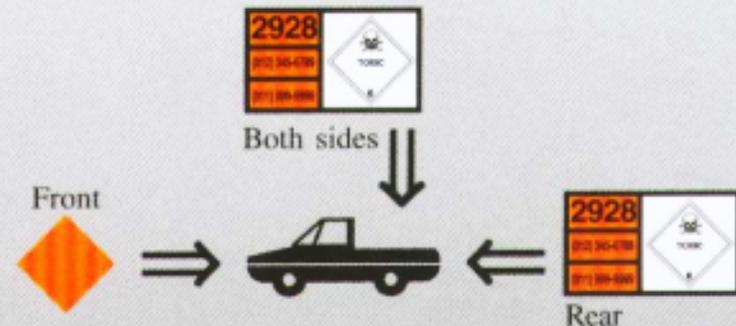
### Sides

Both sides require a placard (same as for the year).



### Light delivery vehicles

Half-size placards are permitted on vehicles less than 3 500 kg GVM and subsidiary risk diamonds are not needed.



# Requirement for Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit

- The operator of a vehicle shall not use, or allow the use of the vehicle for the transportation of dangerous goods, without a valid **Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit** issued by a **Chief Fire Officer** of a Local Authority.

- An operator, before applying for the issue of a Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit, shall present the vehicle to an ***inspector*** for an evaluation of the vehicle's suitability to transport dangerous goods.
- The ***inspector*** shall issue a certificate of compliance, to certify that the vehicle is suitable to transport dangerous goods.

("Inspector" means a person appointed to examine the suitability of a vehicle to transport dangerous goods in excess of the permissible amounts to determine the compliance of the vehicle to these regulations;)

# Application and renewal of a Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit

(1) An operator shall submit an Application Form, to the Chief Fire Officer of the Local Authority where the vehicle is normally registered, to apply for or renew a Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit.

(2) Application form shall be accompanied by a -

- (a) certified copy of the **vehicle's registration** certificate;
- (b) certified copy of the **identity document of the owner** of the vehicle;
- (c) certified copy of the **vehicle's certificate of compliance**;
- (d) certified copy of the **emergency procedure plan**;
- (e) certified copy of an **insurance policy**;
- (f) **proof of payment of the fee** as determined in terms of the regulations; and
- (g) in the case of a **renewal application**, a certified copy of the **existing Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit**.

# Immediate issue of the Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit

(1) The Chief Fire Officer shall immediately issue a Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit for the vehicle-

- (a) if the **applicant complies** with the provisions of the Regulations;
- (b) the vehicle is **found to be suitable** to transport dangerous goods by the inspector in terms of the Regulation; and
- (c) provides **proof of payment** of the fee as determined in the Regulations.

# Lapse of a Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit

(1) An operator must **annually apply** to the Chief Fire Officer to renew a vehicle's Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit as set out in Regulation 5.

(2) If an operator **does not annually apply** to the Chief Fire Officer for renewal of the vehicle's Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit, the **permit will lapse**.

(3) A local authority is **under no obligation** to notify an operator to renew a Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit before it lapses.

# Transfer of Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit

An operator **may not transfer** a Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit from one vehicle to another.

# Validity of Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit

(1) A Dangerous Goods Vehicle **Permit issued** by a Chief Fire Officer is valid for -

- (a) **one year** from date of issue; and
- (b) the **entire** South Africa.

(2) Any **alteration** to a vehicle which results that the **vehicle no longer complies** with these Regulations, the Permit will be **invalid**.

# Documentation & Safety

- (1) The **original** Dangerous Goods Vehicle Permit shall be kept in the designated space of the vehicle together with **other dangerous goods documents prescribed** in terms of any other legislation.
- (2) The TECard (Transport Emergency Card), Safety data sheets (MSDS), and an emergency response guide (ERG).
- (3) The TECard shall **COMPLY** with SANS10232-4
- (4) TECard is valid for 3 years



# Classification

Substances are categorized into nine(9) UN classes based on their hazards, such as explosives, gases, flammable liquids, and toxic substances.

# Emergency Response

Proper, immediate action, including 24/7, emergency phone contact details, is required to minimize risks to public health and the environment.

# THANK YOU

## Any Questions?



# Recommendations/Resolutions

Comment	Recommendation	Resolutions