



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



Comprehensive Safety Guidance Issued for DGs Storage and Handling Facilities

Four industry groups have collaborated to produce best practice guidelines for the storage and handling of dangerous goods in light of several major recent incidents as well as a plethora of lesser accidents.

Alongside increasing volumes of dangerous goods being transported in containers, tragic incidents in Tianjin and Beirut have marked a decade of increased concern over the safety of dangerous goods stored in ports, terminals and other warehousing facilities.

Consequently, the International Cargo Handling Coordination Association (ICHCA), International Vessel Owners Dangerous Goods Association (IVODGA), National Cargo Bureau (NCB) and World Shipping Council (WSC) have responded by developing a [Dangerous Goods Warehousing White Paper](#).

Uffe V Ernst-Frederiksen and Ken Rohlmann of IVODGA emphasise that the temporary or long-term storage of dangerous goods in a facility “necessitates careful planning, supervision and continued due diligence”.

“While the major disasters in Beirut and Tianjin have been widely reported, there are many other incidents around the globe that do not garner the same attention, but which have the potential to escalate,” they state.

“There are existing international, national and local regulations for dangerous goods in transit for various modes of transport but there is no direct equivalent for warehouses.”

The Dangerous Goods Warehousing White Paper, and its accompanying [checklist](#), detail the risks involved in storing and handling dangerous goods and, importantly the measures to be taken in containing them.

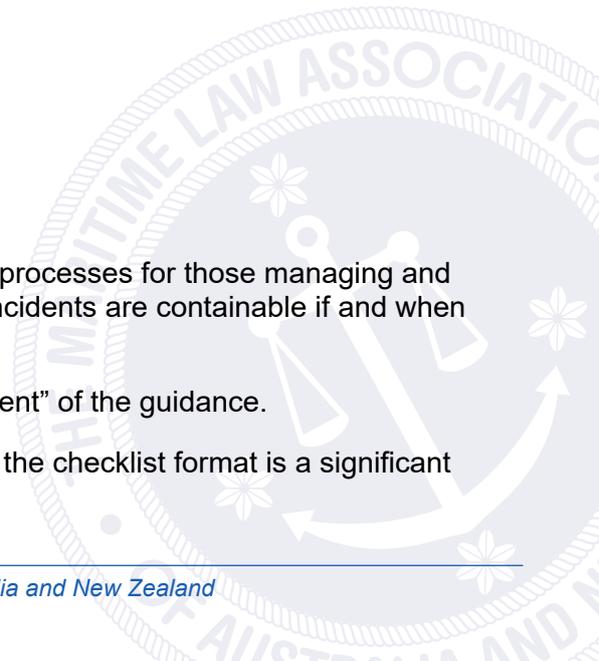
Topics covered include:

- competency and training of workforces
- property construction
- fire protection
- security equipment and protocols
- emergency response procedures

It is intended as a practical guide to systematic and documentable processes for those managing and operating storage facilities to ensure ongoing safety but also that incidents are containable if and when they arise.

Richard Steele of ICHCA describes the checklist as a “pivotal element” of the guidance.

“Given our aim to provide a practical management tool, we believe the checklist format is a significant addition to the other elements of the white paper,” he says.



“Broken down into eight key functional areas of operation, this comprehensive 14-page checklist is designed as both a planning guideline and a review tool, as well as an everyday device for maintaining safety management vigilance.”

The Dangerous Goods Warehousing White Paper has been endorsed by influential industry stakeholders including the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Bureau International des Containers (BIC), Container Owners’ Association (COA), the Council on Safe Transportation of Hazardous Articles (COSTHA), Danish Shipping, the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Association (FIATA), the International Group of P&I Clubs (IGP&I) and the Through Transport Mutual Insurance Association Ltd (TT Club).

March 2022

