

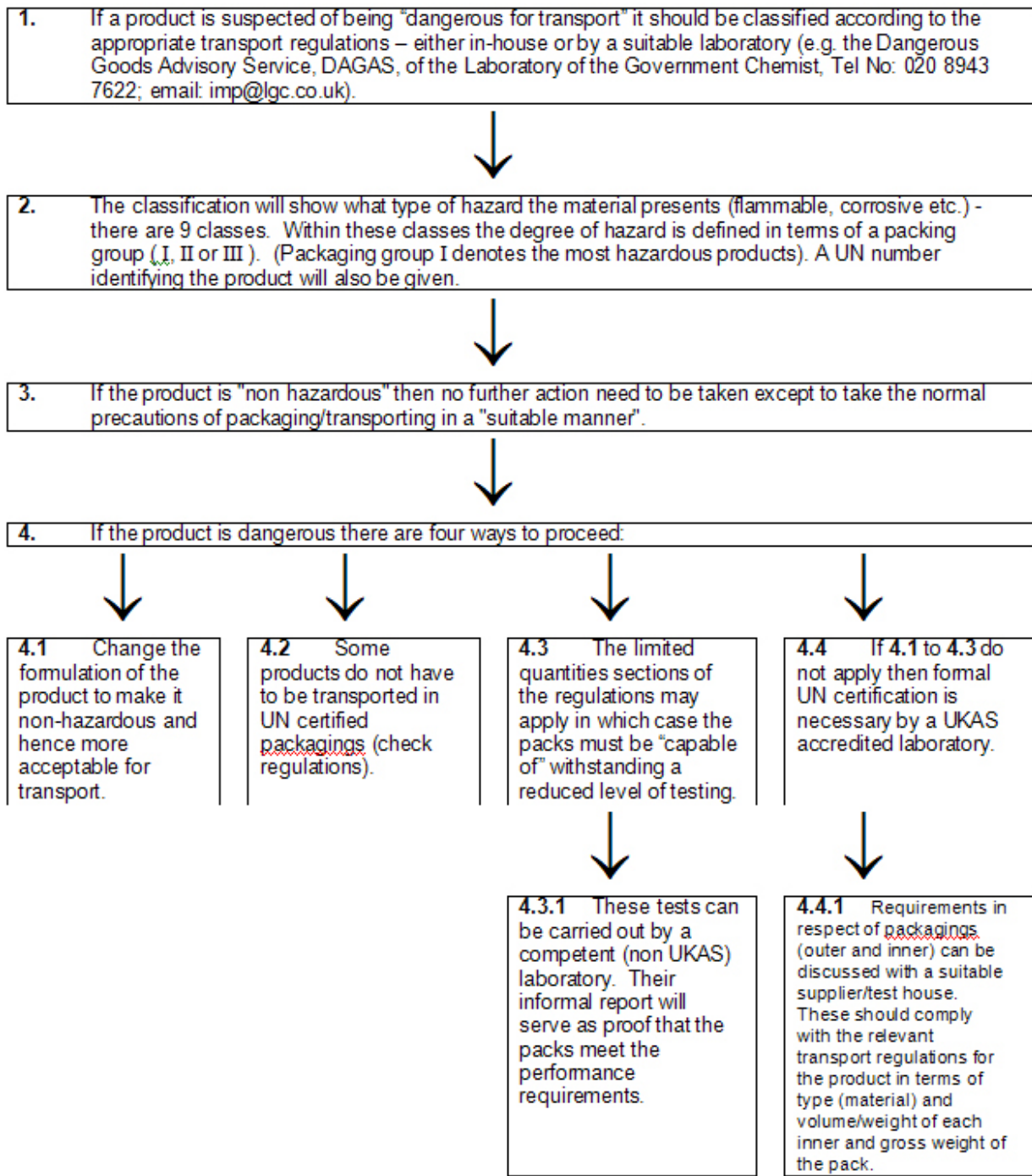
Guidance on Obtaining Approval for Packaging used for the Transport of Dangerous Goods



This paper has been prepared to illustrate the steps involved in ensuring that "Hazardous Products" are transported in accordance with the national and international transport regulations.

It is the responsibility of the shipper to ensure that all aspects of these regulations are met.

The use of UN certified packagings, where required, is now mandatory in the UK for both home trade and export shipments.



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4.4.2 Only UKAS accredited test houses authorised to test corrugated/solid fibreboard packaging can be used to carry out the specified performance tests on these package types. They will require packaging specifications plus details of the product classification, pack type and transportation method. Some of this information will be used by the test house to check that the pack is suitable for shipment by the method(s) to be employed. Sufficient packaging to provide 8 filled packs will be needed for test purposes. The hazardous material itself will not normally be required as a suitable non-hazardous alternative will be used. The client may be asked to assist in sourcing the latter.



4.4.3 If a number of similar packs are to be certified, VCA Dangerous Goods office may be able to provide a selective testing option to reduce the overall workload and costs, by testing representative samples.



4.4.4 The test house will carry out the appropriate tests in accordance with the VCA Dangerous Goods office Operational Instructions as follows:-

DROP TESTS	}	* Combination	
STACKING TESTS	}	Packs and composites	
AIR PRESSURE TESTS	}		Composite
LEAK PROOFNESS TESTS	}		Packs for liquids

In the event of a failure the client will be notified both verbally and in writing and a satisfactory course of action agreed.

* Some packs containing plastic inners may require pre-conditioning at Minus 18°C (-18°C).



4.4.5 On satisfactory completion of the tests, a report will be prepared by the test house.



4.4.6 When the report is approved by the client a copy is sent to VCA Dangerous Goods office for formal approval. When the latter is given, a DRAFT CERTIFICATE (without a UN cert. number) is issued and when this is signed by the client and returned to VCA together with their fees, a final certificate showing the full UN certificate number is issued.



4.4.7 The latter will be in the form:-



4G/Y26/S/**/GB/9999

(** to be replaced by the last 2 digits of the year of manufacture of the case)

And must be printed on the outside of the case together with the other appropriate labelling and hazard marks. Both the report and the certificate must be retained as proof that the packs comply with the UN requirements.



4.4.8 Finally the test station will issue an invoice for testing/report fees. All UN certificates incur annual charges from VCA.

Additional Notes

1) Approval as a Supplier

It has been brought to the attention of this Association by VCA Dangerous Goods office, the UK Certifying Body for the packaging of dangerous goods that companies are being asked to replicate boxes with the UN mark, although they are not registered certificate holders.

You are therefore advised that unless you are already an approved supplier for a certified box, you cannot supply UN marked packages, even at the request of a certificate holder, until they have been approved by VCA Dangerous Goods office on behalf of the DFT.

Before preparing box/board samples for approval, you should ensure that you are working at the request of a certificate holder (ask to see a copy of the certificate) as only certificate holder's requests will be actioned by VCA Dangerous Goods office.

Further advice on certification may be obtained from VCA.

2) Amendments to Board Grades

A UN certificate and test report refer to packaging and hence board grades must not be altered in any way without consulting PIRA.

In September 1995, an agreement was reached between the then BFPA (now CPI) and PIRA that re-testing a corrugated grade which differed from that originally certified was not required providing the following conditions were met:-

The alternative board grade must have a combined grammage within -5 to +10% of that of the original grade.

Individual papers must be within 10% of the original grammages subject to the outer and inner liners being in the original material type.

Burst and edge crush must be equal to or greater than the original specification.

Any permanent changes to the board specification must be agreed with PIRA in advance.

3) Re-validations

Every certificate is issued with a 5 year life and the certificate holder will be notified by VCA when their certificate is up for renewal. This will require the certificate holder to submit a sample of the pack (inners and outers) to an approved test house for verification. Once all the components have been checked the report will be submitted to VCA then to the certificate holder.

4) Abbreviations / Contact Points

DFT

Department for Transport

Dangerous Goods Division, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR

The Department is the UK Competent Authority for the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

See Dangerous Goods Guidance note No.2, which contains the "Arrangements" for the scheme for the Packaging of Dangerous Goods, (occasionally updated - current as of November 2007).

VCA

VCA Dangerous Goods office, Cleeve Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7NF

VCA is the UK's Certifying Authority.

Contact; Mr. Keith White, 01372 226113; e-mail keith.white@vca.gov.uk

UKAS

United Kingdom Accreditation Service
21 - 47 High Street, Feltham, TW13 4UN

This is the body that provides accreditation for authorised test stations

UN

United Nations

The UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods publishes Recommendations addressed to governments and international organisations.

Current issue (December 2005); "Transport of Dangerous Goods" Model Regulations (Fourteenth Edition, adopted August 2007).