

Summary of Notes of Dangerous Goods Standing Committee Meeting held on 27 February 2025

Matters of Discussion

1. Review of Dangerous Goods Ordinance (DGO)/Regulations

Progress of the review:

- Implementation of the amended DGO, Cap. 295 and its subsidiary legislation

The latest amendments of Schedule 2 Dangerous Goods (S2DG) list of the Dangerous Goods (Application & Exemption) Regulation 2012 (DG(A&E)R 2012), Cap. 295E had come into operation on 1.1.2025. In addition, the revised Code of Practice for Control of Dangerous Goods on Land (CoP) had been published in the gazette on 13.12.2024. In response to the new version of International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code (42-24 edition), which had been published in January 2025 and would come into mandatory on 1.1.2026, FSD planned to update the S2DG list and Schedule 3 to the DG(A&E)R 2012, Cap. 295E, Schedule 7 to the Dangerous Goods (Control) Regulation (DG(C)R), Cap. 295G and on some provisions of CoP in order to retain in line with international practice.

Members were briefed about the details of the proposed amendments to DG(A&E)R 2012, DG(C)R and CoP as well as the timeline of the legislative amendment exercise. The amendments were targeted to be implemented by phases on 1.1.2026 and 1.1.2027.

It was highlighted that an important amendment involved deleting UN1361 CARBON from S2DG list of the DG(A&E)R 2012 and adding Charcoal as Class 9A DG in Schedule 3 to the DG(A&E)R 2012 and Schedule 7 to the DG(C)R. Members were invited to comment on the proposed amendments, and no comments were received. A public consultation would be conducted via a webinar of FSD Connects in March 2025.

- Dangerous Goods (Application & Exemption) Regulation 2012 [DG(A&E)R 2012] and Dangerous Goods (Control) Regulation [DG(C)R]

“Proposed amendments to DG(A&E)R 2012” had been circulated to the Members to seek comment on the proposed amendments to Schedule 1 to the DG(A&E)R 2012 which aimed to align with the latest version of the IMDG Code (42-24 edition), and no comments were received.

2. Safe Operation of Petrol Filling Stations (PFS)

FSD had conducted surprise inspections to 10 PFS from November 2024 to January 2025 during which fire safety advice was given to the PFS operators. No violation of Fire Safety Requirements (FSR) was identified during the inspections.

Special operation for surprise inspections of PFS across the territory to ensure compliance with FSR was completed in December 2024. A total of 179 PFS were inspected in the special operation, during which fire safety advice was provided to the PFS operators.

For better control of fire risks associated with electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities within PFS, an advisory letter dated 29.11.2024 had been issued to inform all PFS operators of the additional FSR for PFS to be retrofitted with EV charging facilities. The advisory letter reminded all PFS operators to notify FSD of their intention to operate EV charging facilities within their PFS at least 3 months before the operation, so that a new set of Addendum to FSR could be issued to the PFS. It was important to note that operating EV charging facilities within a PFS without obtaining prior approval from FSD would be considered as a breach of licensing conditions.

3. Enforcement Actions Related to Over-Storage of Dangerous Goods

From November 2024 to January 2025, FSD conducted 493 surprise inspections to hardware and chemical material stores and had taken relevant enforcement actions against cases of over-storage of DG.

4. Fire Safety at Oil Depots

The next table-top exercise on the “Voluntary Mutual Aid Scheme - Provision of Reserve Foam Concentrate in the Event of a Major Oil Farm Incident” was tentatively scheduled for 19.6.2025.

5. Safe Operation at DG stores

Special operation for surprise inspections of DG stores and laboratories in the universities across the territory was conducted in December 2024. A total of 268 DG stores and more than 500 laboratories were inspected in the special operation, during which fire safety advice was provided to the staff of universities.

From November 2024 to January 2025, FSD had carried out more than 800 surprise inspections to approved DG stores. The condition of most of the DG stores inspected was satisfactory.

6. Retrofitting EV Charging Facilities at Existing PFS

As of 11.2.2025, FSD received 61 proposals for retrofitting EV charging facilities at existing PFS and 45 of which were granted approval.

7. Control of Special Gases in the Microelectronics Industry

The “Guide to Application for Storage and Use Licence of Special Gases in the Microelectronics Industry” (The Guide) had been published and uploaded onto the Dangerous Goods Thematic Website of FSD on 30.12.2024 for public reference. In addition, a public briefing on the details of The Guide was conducted via FSD Connects on 13.1.2025.

8. Enhancing Safety of Dangerous Goods Vehicle

Subsequent to the previous meeting held with a local DG transport committee i.e. Hong Kong Fuel Transportation Association Limited (HKFTA) on 14.8.2024, Dangerous Goods Enforcement Division (DGED) of FSD held a follow up meeting with HKFTA on 20.2.2025 during which the following issues had been discussed:

- (i) the regulatory requirements of attended dangerous goods vehicle (DGV) and prohibition against licensed DGV being used as mobile DG store;
- (ii) the parking arrangement of DGV whilst loading/ unloading of DG;

- (iii) the regulatory requirements of PFS; and
- (iv) the training schedule and syllabus of fire safety training course for DGV drivers.

It was remarked that member representing the Petroleum Interests should maintain good communication with HKFTA so that the concerns of HKFTA could be raised up and discussed in DGSC if necessary.

For the sake of enhancing the fire safety of DGVs whilst conveyance of DG, DGED conducted surprise inspections to 20 licensed DGVs from November 2024 to January 2025. The FSR and licensing conditions of these DGVs were found to be maintained satisfactorily.

9. Dangerous Goods Vehicle Tracking System

A comprehensive market research and implementation proposal were being prepared for developing a proposal on imposing a mandatory requirement of installation of tracking system for DGVs used for conveyance of Class 2 DG and Class 3/3A DG.

The preliminary idea of installing tracking system on DGVs had been conveyed to representatives of the industry and no adverse comment were received so far.

10 Evaluation of Use Area Not Within the Same Building of the DG Store

FSD conducted a review on the application for the use area in a DG store and use licence recently. In general, it was acceptable if the DG store and its use area were situated within an area managed or regulated by a single entity. Otherwise, additional risk mitigation measures might be imposed to ensure safety and compliance. Relevant paragraphs in Section 2.2.8.2 ("Acceptance of Use Area") of "A Guide to Application for Dangerous Goods Licence and Approval" had been revised and updated in the Dangerous Goods Thematic Website of FSD for public reference.

11 Optimizing DG Store Licence Application Procedures

To address the issue on lack of submissions and replies from applicants

of DG store licences resulting in some applications remaining stagnant for a considerable period of time, DGCD would issue periodic reminders to applicants, urging them to submit the necessary information in a timely manner for further processing. Three periodic reminders would be issued to the applicant before his/her application was formally ceased by DGCD.