

INFLAMMABLE MATTER REGULATIONS*

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PART I.—PRELIMINARY.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Inflammable Matter Citation. Regulations.*
2. These Regulations shall come into operation on the 31st March, 1959. Commencement.
3. These Regulations apply to the stacking, storing and keeping of inflammable matter in containers not exceeding fifty gallons. Application.
4. These Regulations are divided into Parts as follows:— Parts.
 - Part I.—Preliminary (Regulations 1-5).
 - Part II.—General (Regulations 6-19).
5. In these Regulations, unless the contrary intention appears— Definitions.
 - “ approved ” means approved by the Chief Fire Officer or an officer authorized by the Chief Fire Officer in writing to exercise the powers and functions of the Chief Fire Officer under the Ordinance;
 - “ depot ”, in relation to inflammable liquid, means any pit, excavation, or enclosed place, where situate in a building or not, which is constructed in a manner or surrounded by walls of a character that inflammable liquid stored therein cannot escape therefrom in the form of liquid either under the action of fire or otherwise and, in relation to dangerous goods, means any building or place approved as a depot by the Chief Fire Officer;
 - “ inflammable liquid ” means liquid petroleum, kerosene, and oil, liquid or spirit which is derived wholly, or in part, from petroleum shale, schist, coal, peat, bitumen, or other similar substance and which has a true flash point of less than one hundred and fifty degrees Fahrenheit, and subject to the Regulations, and other inflammable liquid which the Administrator, by notice in the *Gazette* declares to be an inflammable liquid for the purposes of these Regulations;
 - “ screen wall ” means wall of such substance and so constructed and placed as to be efficient for the purposes of preventing the spread of fire from one place to any other place, and when inflammable liquid is kept in an underground depot means the surrounding floor, walls, and covering of that underground depot, if so efficient.

* The Inflammable Matter Regulations, in force under the *Fire Brigades Ordinance* 1956–1963, comprise the following Regulations:—

Year and Number	Date on which made	Date notified in Northern Territory Government Gazette	Date of Commencement
1958, No. 16 ..	2nd December, 1958 ..	17th December, 1958 ..	(See r. 2 above) 28th August, 1963
1963, No. 14 ..	14th August, 1963 ..	28th August, 1963 ..	

Delegation.
Inserted by
1963, No. 14.

5A.—(1.) The Chief Fire Officer may by instrument in writing delegate to a person either generally or to the extent provided in the instrument of delegation all or any of his powers and functions under these Regulations (except this power of delegation) so that the delegated powers or functions may be exercised by the delegate with respect to the matter or class of matters specified in the instrument of delegation.

(2.) A power or function so delegated may be exercised or performed by the delegate in accordance with the instrument of delegation.

(3.) A delegation under this regulation is revocable at will and does not prevent the exercise of a power or the performance of a function by the Chief Fire Officer.

PART II.—GENERAL.

Transporting
of inflammable
liquid.

6. Nothing in these Regulations shall apply to the transporting of inflammable liquid by land, sea, rail or internal waterway.

Classification
of inflammable
liquid.

7. For the purpose of these Regulations, inflammable liquid shall be classified as follows:—

Class I—Inflammable liquid with a true flash point of less than 73° Fahrenheit.

Class II—Inflammable liquid with a true flash point between 73° Fahrenheit and 150° Fahrenheit.

Storage of
inflammable
liquid
Class I.

8. A person shall not keep more than sixteen gallons of inflammable liquid of Class I, unless—

- (a) the inflammable liquid is kept in approved containers;
- (b) the inflammable liquid is stored in a depot reserved specifically for the purpose; and
- (c) the conditions under which the inflammable liquid is stored comply with the First Schedule to these Regulations.

Storage on
farm, &c.

9. A person shall not keep more than sixteen gallons of inflammable liquid of Class I in a place used as an agricultural or horticultural farm of five, or more than five acres, unless—

- (a) the inflammable liquid is stored at least fifty feet from any house or dwelling;
- (b) the inflammable liquid is kept for use in connexion with the working of the agricultural or horticultural farm and not for resale.

Storage on
motor vehicle,
&c.

10. A person shall not keep more than sixteen gallons of inflammable liquid of Class I in a motor vehicle, motor tractor, omnibus, motor lorry, road plant, industrial or other machinery using inflammable liquid as its operative power unless the inflammable liquid is kept in a fuel tank or an approved container, or in a drum which complies with the specifications in the Second Schedule to these Regulations.

Storage of
Class II,
inflammable
liquid.

11. A person shall not keep more than one hundred gallons of inflammable liquid of Class II unless—

- (a) the inflammable liquid is kept in approved containers;
- (b) not more than fifty gallons of inflammable liquid of Class II is kept in a container;

- (c) the inflammable liquid is stored in a depot reserved specifically for the purpose; and
- (d) the conditions under which the inflammable liquid is stored comply with the requirements specified in the First Schedule to these Regulations.

12. A person shall not store more than one hundred gallons of inflammable liquid of Class I or two hundred and fifty gallons of inflammable liquid of Class II in the same depot, unless the whole of the inflammable liquid of whatever class is stored as if all the liquid were of Class I.

Class I. and Class II. inflammable liquid.

13. The owner or occupier of premises on which inflammable liquid of Class I and Class II is stored shall ensure that the distance between depots is not less than fifty feet unless one of the depots is surrounded by a screen wall.

Storage of Class I. and Class II. inflammable liquid.

14. The owner or occupier of premises on which containers have been emptied of inflammable liquid shall ensure that the containers are immediately closed.

Empty containers.

15.—(1.) The Chief Fire Officer may seize, remove, or detain any inflammable liquid and any container or vehicle in which the liquid is contained, where he has reasonable cause for belief that there has been a contravention of these Regulations.

Powers of Chief Fire Officer.

(2.) The Chief Fire Officer may render harmless any inflammable liquid which in his opinion is dangerous to the public or any person.

(3.) Inflammable liquid, a container or a vehicle in which the liquid is contained and which is seized by the Chief Fire Officer pursuant to these Regulations shall, at the discretion of the Administrator, be destroyed or be sold at public auction, public tender or by private treaty.

(4.) The proceeds from a sale made pursuant to this regulation shall be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

16. A person who hinders or obstructs, or does not, upon being required so to do, assist the Chief Fire Officer or his representative in the exercise of his powers and duties under these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence.

Obstructing Chief Fire Officer or his representative.

Penalty: Twenty pounds.

17. The owner and the occupier of premises on which inflammable liquid is kept are each severally responsible for ensuring that—

Storage of liquid fuel.

- (a) liquid fuel, when not kept in storage tanks is kept in containers not exceeding fifty gallons in capacity of glass, metal, or any other material deemed suitable for the purpose;
- (b) each liquid fuel container, when in use, is capable of effectively preventing the escape of liquid or vapour from the container;
- (c) when inflammable liquid is required to be kept in a depot the depot—
 - (i) is constructed of brick, stone, concrete, iron or other non-inflammable and non-combustible material;
 - (ii) the floor is of concrete or other non-inflammable and non-combustible material;

- (iii) has a well or enclosed area which has a capacity of not less than the capacity of the largest container and is capable of storing at least twenty-five per centum of the total amount of the inflammable liquid kept in closed containers in the depot;
- (iv) is efficiently ventilated, and where the depot exceeds twenty feet on any side there shall be one ventilator on each side to every twenty feet as well as one ventilator in each corner, and every ventilator shall be not less than six inches diameter brought down to within six inches of the bottom of the depot, extending well above the roof, effectively capped so as to be weather-proof, and covered both top and bottom with gauze of not less than twenty-eight meshes to the lineal inch;
- (v) has a number of similarly capped and gauzed ventilators extending through the roof, if the ventilation of the roof is not otherwise sufficient;
- (vi) is efficiently ventilated by high vents fixed in the roof, and low vents fixed in the sides and the low vents are situated immediately above the well and covered with metal gauze of not less than twenty-eight meshes to the lineal inch, and where a vent opening to the open air is less than five feet above the ground, it is protected on the outside by a substantial grating, and the minimum effective area of a vent is not less than thirty-six square inches at distances not exceeding twenty feet;
- (vii) has a storage capacity exceeding by ten per centum the amount of inflammable liquid stored in the depot at any time;
- (viii) is not accessible from a public way; and
- (ix) is not established in a building used or occupied by a member of the public.

Rules for
depots.

18. A person keeping inflammable liquid in a depot shall comply with the following general rules:—

- (a) a depot shall be used exclusively for the storage and decanting of inflammable liquid and containers;
- (b) no explosive substance or anything liable to spontaneous ignition or combustion, and no fire or light except artificial light of the character and construction prescribed as suitable by the Chief Fire Officer shall be brought into or placed or permitted to remain in a depot;
- (c) no person under the age of fourteen years shall be permitted to enter or remain in a depot;
- (d) a sufficient quantity of dry sand, earth or ashes shall be readily available for use in the event of fire at a depot;
- (e) chemical extinguishers approved by the Chief Fire Officer shall be available at a depot;

- (f) no person shall smoke in a depot;
- (g) grass, brush, straw, or other combustible material shall be kept clear of a depot for at least ten feet from the perimeter of the depot;
- (h) a notice prohibiting smoking shall be displayed in each depot; and
- (i) inflammable liquid Class I stored in a depot must be clearly marked with a sign of a type, size and number stipulated by the Chief Fire Officer and which clearly indicates that Class I inflammable liquid is stored in this depot, and that members of the public are prohibited from entering the depot.

19. A person who contravenes or fails to comply with a provision of these Regulations for which no penalty is expressly provided shall be liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding Fifty pounds. Penalty.

THE SCHEDULES.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

Regulations 8 and 11.

1. Where inflammable liquid is stored in a depot with a screen wall and—

- (a) more than 16 gallons of Class I inflammable liquid; or
- (b) more than 100 gallons of Class II inflammable liquid

is stored, the depot shall be situated at a distance from a building not less than the distance specified in a line in the first column of the table set out below where the number of gallons is equal to or less than the number of gallons specified in the same line in the second column of that table.

2. Where inflammable liquid is stored in a depot without a screen wall and—

- (a) more than 16 gallons of Class I inflammable liquid; or
- (b) more than 100 gallons of Class II inflammable liquid

is stored, the depot shall be situated at a distance from a building not less than the distance specified in a line in the first column of the table set out below where the number of gallons is equal to or less than the number of gallons specified in the same line in the third column of that table.

Feet.	Gallons.	Gallons.
10	1,000	250
15	2,000	500
20	10,000	2,500
25	15,000	3,750
30	20,000	5,000
40	40,000	10,000
50	80,000	20,000

SECOND SCHEDULE.

Regulation 10.

SPECIFICATION FOR REFILLABLE DRUMS USED FOR INFLAMMABLE OILS.

NOTE.—For the purpose of this specification the term “refillable drum” shall mean a drum which may be refilled with inflammable oils falling within the scope of clause 1.

1. Scope.—This specification deals with drums not exceeding 50 imperial gallons capacity used for containing inflammable liquids having a true flash point of less than 150 Fahrenheit.

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SECOND SCHEDULE—continued

2. *Construction.*—Each drum shall be in good condition, sound and free from leakage, and be constructed of iron or steel, having a minimum thickness at any part of such drum not less than that set out in the following table.

Kind of Drum.	Capacity in Imperial Gallons.	Minimum Thickness of Metal in Inches.
Drums of all kinds	Not exceeding 5 ..	0.030
Drums of all kinds	Over 5 not exceeding 9	0.037
Cylindrical and bilge type drums with hoops, but hoops not swaged or rolled into shell	Over 9 not exceeding 30	0.049
Over 30 not exceeding 50		0.061
Drums of all kinds with hoops swaged or rolled into shell	Over 9 not exceeding 30	0.061
Over 30 not exceeding 50		0.076
Bilge type drums without hoops. Thickness of metal at the bilge	Over 9 not exceeding 30	0.076
Over 30 not exceeding 50		0.091
Bilge type drums without hoops. Thickness of metal at parts other than bilge	Over 9 not exceeding 30	0.069
Over 30 not exceeding 50		0.076

3. *Hoops.*—Drums of capacity not exceeding 8 gallons capacity need not be provided with rolling hoops, but all plain cylindrical drums of over 8 gallons capacity and up to 50 gallons capacity shall have hoops.

4. *Attachment of Hoops.*—The rolling hoops, if any, on each drum which are not swaged or rolled into the shell shall be properly secured to the shell by means of a small bead on each side of each rolling hoop or welded at several places round the circumference for a length not less than 4 inches at each place, and such hoops shall not be attached by spot welding or beading under the rolling hoops.

5. *Bunghole and Plug.*—A gasket shall be used and shall effect a gas and liquid-tight joint. The bunghole and plug of each drum shall have not less than six screw threads per inch, and the depth of engagement when the gasket is in place shall be at least 7/16 inch. Both the bunghole and plug shall have faced surfaces bearing squarely on each other for at least ¼ inch across at right angles to the direction of the screw threads.

6. *General Leakage Tests.*—Each drum shall be capable of withstanding without leakage an internal air pressure of 15 lb. per square inch. For the application of this test all seams shall be covered with soapsuds or heavy oil, or the drum shall be prepared in other approved manner, and the drum shall be carefully examined while under pressure.

7. *Type Pressure Test.*—Each type of drum shall be capable of withstanding without leakage a hydrostatic test pressure of not less than 40 lb. per square inch sustained for not less than five minutes. Any distortion of the heads due to this test shall be such that the heads can be restored approximately to their original position (by hammering with a wooden maul or similar means) without leakage, when subject to a 15 lb. air pressure test.

8. *Type Drop Test.*—Each type of drum, when filled with water to 98 per cent. of its capacity, shall be capable of withstanding without leakage a test by dropping it diagonally on its chine from a height of 4 feet upon a solid concrete foundation.

9. *Marking.*—Each drum shall bear a permanent brand, label or other mark giving the true thickness of metal of which such drum is made, the volume of contents in imperial gallons and the year of manufacture. Each drum when containing inflammable liquid having a true flashpoint less than 73° Fahrenheit shall also be clearly marked “Highly Inflammable”, in well proportioned and conspicuous block letters of size not less than 1½ inches high.