

## Classifying dangerous goods

Dangerous goods are classified into one of nine classes depending on their hazardous properties and characteristics. Some classes are further subdivided into hazard divisions to specify the type of hazard more precisely.

Classification of dangerous goods, in accordance to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Technical Instructions:

| <b>Class/Division</b> | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Common Examples</b>  |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| <b>Class 1</b>        | <b>Explosives</b>  | Fireworks, flares, ammunition, airbag inflators                                       |
| <b>Class 2</b>        | <b>Gases</b>   |   |
| Division 2.1          | Flammable gases  | Butane, propane, camping gas cylinders, lighters                                      |
| Division 2.2          | Non-flammable, non-toxic gases   | Fire extinguishers, compressed air, carbon dioxide                                    |
| Division 2.3          | Toxic gases  | Pesticide gases, chlorine   |
| <b>Class 3</b>        | <b>Flammable liquids</b>   | Paint, perfume, nail polish, adhesives, fuel, alcohol-based products                  |
| <b>Class 4</b>        | <b>Flammable solids; substances liable to spontaneous combustion; substances which, in contact with water, emits flammable gases</b> |   |
| Division 4.1          | Flammable solids   | Matches, activated carbon, some plastics  |
| Division 4.2          | Substances liable to spontaneous combustion  | Oily rags, some chemicals   |
| Division 4.3          | Substances which emit flammable gases when wet   | Calcium carbide, sodium   |
| <b>Class 5</b>        | <b>Oxidizing substances and organic peroxides</b>  |   |
| Division 5.1          | Oxidising substances   | Swimming pool chemicals, bleach, fertilisers  |
| Division 5.2          | Organic peroxides  | Some adhesives, resins  |
| <b>Class 6</b>        | <b>Toxic and infectious substances</b>   |   |
| Division 6.1          | Toxic substances   | Pesticides, some chemicals, mercury   |
| Division 6.2          | Infectious substances  | Medical specimens, biological samples   |
| <b>Class 7</b>        | <b>Radioactive material</b>  | Medical isotopes, smoke detectors, some gauges  |
| <b>Class 8</b>        | <b>Corrosive substances</b>  | Battery acid, drain cleaners, some cleaning products                                  |
| <b>Class 9</b>        | <b>Miscellaneous dangerous substances and articles, including environmentally hazardous substances</b>                               | Lithium batteries, sodium batteries, dry ice, magnetised materials, asbestos, airbags |

**Important Notes:**

- Many common household and commercial items fall into these categories
- Some items may have multiple hazards (e.g., a product that is both flammable and corrosive)
- When uncertain about classification, always request a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) from the manufacturer or supplier