

Code of Practice for the Transfer and Traceability of Fertiliser Classified as Dangerous Goods

1. Introduction:

This Code of Practice is designed to reduce to a minimum the physical transfer of product, as defined, and enhance traceability for security purposes. This can be best achieved by placing the responsibility for the distribution/delivery of the product to the farmer user upon the producer or the first importer or his appointed distributor. The measures detailed herein apply equally to all three parties.

All requirements of the Code must be followed with full compliance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

2. Definitions:

In the code of practice as drafted below the following definitions apply:

2.1 Product

The code of practice applies to all Ammonium Nitrate based fertiliser as classified under current UK legislation as dangerous goods. All solid fertiliser product so classified can be identified by the yellow oxidising diamond carrying UN classification number 2067.



2.2 Producer

A UK based chemical manufacturer of Ammonium Nitrate or a user of UK produced or imported Ammonium Nitrate based fertiliser primarily for the manufacture of blended fertiliser products

2.3 Co production

A company, with ammonium nitrate production expertise, who has product manufactured on their behalf by a UK Chemical producer under an industrial contractual agreement and packaged in the co producers own bags.

2.4 First Importer

The person responsible for importing Ammonium Nitrate based fertiliser into the UK with a minimum requirement and obligation for Carriage and Freight receipt of product.

2.5 Appointed Distributor

An Agricultural Merchant appointed by the producer or first importer to distribute Ammonium Nitrate based fertiliser.

2.6 Intermediate Storage

Storage facilities used at some point in the supply chain away from the point of manufacture / first import.

3. Procedure

All producers, first importers and appointed distributors must act as follows when marketing ammonium nitrate based fertilisers:

3.1 Existing Legislation

All producers, first importers and appointed distributors commit to comply and stay up to date with all current legislation relevant to the product.

3.2 Farm Deliveries

The first importer, producer or appointed distributor must always be responsible for onward delivery to farm. Collection by the end user can be taken only by those who are compliant with the Carriage of Dangerous Goods Regulations (See also 3.3).

3.3 Intermediate Storage

If the product is supplied via intermediate storage, then such storage must always be compliant with current storage regulations and be controlled by the producer, first importer or appointed distributor.

3.4 Order Acceptance

The first importer, producer or appointed distributor must only accept an order if the consignee's name and address is provided at the time of such order and the consignee is a known, bona fide, user.

3.5 Order Verification

The producer, first importer or appointed distributor is responsible for verifying that the product is being delivered to a known bona fide user.

3.6 Account Sales

Sales of Ammonium Nitrate based fertiliser must always be made on account basis. Cash sales to non-account customers are not permitted under any circumstance. Cash purchase requests must always be notified to the relevant authorities.

3.7 Packaging

Ammonium nitrate based fertiliser must be offered for sale to the farmer user only in packages of 500 Kg or greater.

3.8 Spot Audits

All producers, first importers or appointed distributors must commit to regular spot audits of hauliers and stores to help ensure full compliance with the code and existing legislation.

3.9 Record Keeping

Appointed distributors must keep a record of all deliveries detailing consignee's name, address, delivery date, product type, quantity and any other identification detail which may be available to aid traceability and make this available, on request, to the relevant authorities via the producer/ first importer.

The record must be in a form which makes it readily accessible for audit purposes.

Key legislation.

Various regulations and legislation cover the handling and storage of Ammonium Nitrate fertilisers. These include

- i) The Dangerous Substances (Notification and Marking of Sites) Regulations 1990.
- ii) Notification of Installations Handling Hazardous Substances Regulations 1982.
- iii) Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999. (COMAH)
- iv) Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 1992.
- v) The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2004
- vi) The European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road 2003 (known as ADR).

- vii) The Ammonium Nitrate Materials (High Nitrogen Content) Safety Regulations 2003.

In addition HSE Guidance IND(G) 230L (Storing and Handling Ammonium Nitrate) is highly relevant to the to the handling of product covered by this Code.

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