



Dangerous Goods Safety information sheet

Overview of Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate Regulations

Introduction

This document is for guidance only and the definitive statutory requirements are contained in the Dangerous Goods Safety (Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate) Regulations 2007 (the SSAN Regulations).

The basis for the SSAN Regulations is the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreement of 25 June 2004 related to counter-terrorism measures.

Western Australia has developed dedicated security regulations for so-called security sensitive ammonium nitrate (SSAN) rather than including them in the Explosives Regulations. This avoids confusion or inconsistencies between safety and security requirements for ammonium nitrate.

The requirements of the SSAN Regulations are in addition to the requirements of the other dangerous goods safety regulations.

The following substances, other than Class 1 dangerous goods, are security sensitive ammonium nitrate in Western Australia:

- solid mixtures containing more than 45% ammonium nitrate (AN); and
- ammonium nitrate emulsions, suspensions or gels.

Note: This does not include single-phase, homogenous (as opposed to multiphase, heterogeneous mixtures) aqueous solutions of ammonium nitrate as commonly used in fertigation applications or as hot, concentrated solutions (UN 2426) for making AN emulsion explosives. However, it does include calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN), which is not a dangerous good under the UN classification system.

SSAN licensing system (5 year renewal, annual fee)

Only specifically authorised persons may possess SSAN and have unsupervised access to them. Authorised persons are either licence holders or so-called secure nominees of licence holders.

In order to obtain an SSAN licence, a legitimate purpose must be demonstrated, such as:

- use for manufacture of commercial explosives and non-SSAN products such as nitrous oxide;
- use in laboratories for research, teaching and testing; and
- fertiliser use by primary producers.

Licences are not issued for household use or fertilisation of recreational grounds (e.g. sports grounds, parks, gardens). The import, manufacture and sale of cold packs containing AN for first aid and camping uses, and any home garden fertilisers in solid form with more than 45% AN content is not allowed.

Licensed shotfirers and operators of mobile processing units (MPUs; licensed under the Explosives Regulations) do not need to be separately authorised to possess SRS. Anyone else requires one or more of the following five-year licences to possess or purchase SSAN:

- SSAN import/export licence;
- SSAN manufacture licence (allows associated storage);
- SSAN storage licence;
- SSAN transport licence;
- SSAN supply licence; and
- SSAN fertiliser licence (combination licence for transport, storage and use).

Commercial, industry and educational laboratories are exempted from licensing for the storage and use of less than 3 kg of SSAN per laboratory building.

Except for the SSAN fertiliser licence, all SSAN licences allow supply (i.e. no additional supply licence is necessary) and are in addition to any other licences required under the following dangerous goods safety regulations:

- Storage and Handling of Non-explosives (safety only);
- Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives (safety only); and
- Explosives (safety and security).

SSAN manufacture, storage, transport and fertiliser licences require a security plan as a precondition for obtaining the licence.

SSAN licences are only issued to applicants in possession of a valid security clearance, as shown by a current dangerous goods security card.

A licence or authorisation as a secure nominee is required for any unsupervised activity associated with SSAN of any quantity.

Security clearance and dangerous goods security card for licence holders and secure nominee (5 year renewal)

Individuals who are licence holders and people with unsupervised access to SSAN require a security clearance and must apply for a dangerous goods security card.

Note: The application form is only available from participating Australia Post Offices. Ring 13 13 18 for participating offices. Guidance on the requirements for applying for a dangerous goods security card is available from the Resources Safety website.

The security clearance process is conducted by the WA Police and does not involve Resources Safety. The Chief Officer issues a dangerous goods security card on the advice of the WA Police.

The dangerous goods security card is a plastic photo ID card that is valid for five years from the date of issue. A current card is proof of security clearance and is transferable between employers.

The card by itself is not an authority to be in possession of SSAN, only a necessary precondition. The card holder also requires authorisation from an SSAN licence holder to have unsupervised access to SSAN or explosives. This establishes that the employee has an

operational need and the competence to have unsupervised access to SSAN, and gives the person the legal status of a secure nominee.

It is an offence for an SSAN licence holder or secure nominees to allow unsupervised access to SSAN by a person without a security clearance.

Security plan

SSAN manufacture, storage, transport and fertiliser licences require a security plan as a precondition for obtaining a licence.

The content of a security plan is prescribed in the SSAN Regulations, which require licence holders to develop a written document including a security risk assessment and other prescribed elements. SSAN security templates have been developed to assist industry, and are available from the Resources Safety website.

The licence holder and person representing the company as the responsible person for implementing the security plan are required to implement and comply with the security plan. The licence holder is required to have a responsible person with a security card at all times.

Summary of SSAN licensing system

SSAN licence type	Scope of licence	Requirements of applicant	Comments
Import / export	Import and export of SSAN from overseas by sea or air Authorises supply also	An SSAN import notice at least 7 days before arrival of SSAN and an SSAN export notice at least 7 days before export Each import/export notice must be accompanied by a material safety data sheet (MSDS)	All requirements of the Goods in Ports Regulations are additional (e.g. special berth approvals)
Manufacture Site specific licence	Allows manufacture of SSAN at a fixed plant and associated storage of SSAN Authorises supply also	Security plan	Required for manufacture of AN emulsions, suspensions and gels, intermediates for blasting explosives UN 3375, AN plants and some fertiliser manufacture Not required for the manufacture of fertiliser solutions, nitrous oxide or any other non-SSAN substances
Storage Site specific licence	Authorises supply also	Security plan	At over 10 tonnes, a licence under the Dangerous Goods Safety (Storage and Handling of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007 is required

SSAN licence type	Scope of licence	Requirements of applicant	Comments
Transport	Allows prime contractor to transport SSAN Person from another State or Territory with an equivalent interstate licence may operate without a Western Australian licence Authorises supply also	Security plan Drivers must have dangerous goods security card	Transport to comply with the Australian Dangerous Goods Code and licensing requirements of the Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives Regulations. No co-transport of explosives allowed
Supply	Allows sale and supply only	Detailed sales records to be kept Must not sell to anybody who is not authorised by a licence or authority to purchase	Must seek proof of identity of purchaser via photo ID and evidence of authority to purchase
Fertiliser Site specific licence	For the purchase, transport, storage and use of AN fertiliser by primary producers in unlimited quantities for own use only	Security plan	Exempt from licensing under Storage and Handling of Non-explosives Regulations Dangerous goods transport licence may be required Does not allow explosives use, storage or transport

Note:

- *All licences authorise the possession, supply (except fertiliser licence) and purchase of SSAN.*
- *All holders of personal licences must be 18 years or older.*
- *All licences are valid for five years.*
- *All licences require security clearance of individuals.*

Treatment of shotfirers in respect to SSAN licences

A shotfirer, who is licensed under the Explosives Regulations, may possess SSAN without additional SSAN licences. However, a valid dangerous goods security card is still required to obtain a shotfirer licence.

A licensed shotfirer may transport unlimited amounts of SSAN without an additional SSAN licence as long as the SSAN is for his or her own use. However, like the primary producer operating under an SSAN fertiliser licence, the licensing requirements of the Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives Regulations apply.

A licensed shotfirer only requires an SSAN storage licence for quantities above 100 kg. The licence is not required if the SSAN is stored as part of an explosives storage licence in an explosives magazine. Under this arrangement, the SSAN is regarded as an explosive with half the net equivalent quantity of TNT.

Supervised and unsupervised access

The SSAN Regulations define 'supervised access' by a person to a SSAN as:

'an individual is supervised by another person while he or she has access to an SSAN if at the time he or she –

(a) is in the presence of; or

(b) is in a place where any handling or removal of the SSAN is controlled by, the other person.'

For example, a person involved in the loading or unloading of security-sealed freight containers containing an SSAN would be considered 'supervised' if the site is provided with perimeter security and the supervising person (who is a secure employee) checks the security seals on all SSAN freight containers immediately prior to them leaving the site.

Information on this topic is provided in a Resources Safety information sheet on the meaning of 'controlled by the other person'.

Further information

Guidance material, including national guidance notes for the security of ammonium nitrate, is available from the Resources Safety website.