



Republika ng Pilipinas  
**PANGASIWAAN NG DAUNGAN NG PILIPINAS**  
(PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY)  
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July 15, 1985

PPA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR  
NO. 28 - 85

TO : All Port Managers/Officers-in-Charge,  
Shipping Companies, Shippers, Consignees,  
Cargo Handling Operators and All Others  
Concerned

SUBJECT : Guidelines on the Handling and Storage  
of Dangerous Cargoes

Pursuant to Section 27 of Presidential Decree No. 857 and in consonance with the provisions of Article XVII of the Dockwork Safety and Health Standards dated 06 December 1980, Article VI of PPA Administrative Order No. 13-77, otherwise known as the "General Port Regulations of the PPA", and MSC/Cir. 299 dated 12 February 1981 re: Recommendations on the Safe Transport, Handling and Storage of Dangerous Substances which was issued by the International Maritime Organization of which the Philippines is a member, the following guidelines on the handling and storage of dangerous cargoes are hereby prescribed for the guidance and compliance by all concerned:

I - Preliminary Provisions

Section 1. Statement of Policy - The conveyance, loading, discharging and storage of dangerous cargoes within any port under the jurisdiction of the Authority shall be strictly regulated in order to protect the same against damage/destruction and to ensure the safety of persons working in or living near the port areas and the protection of port installations/facilities.

Section 2. Scope - This Order shall cover all types of dangerous cargoes, as defined herein, being handled/stored in port premises under the jurisdiction of the Authority.

Section 3. Definition of Terms - For purposes of this Order, the following terms, unless the context indicates otherwise, shall mean or be understood to mean, as follows:

a) Authority - refers to the Philippine Ports Authority as created under P. D. 857.

b) Dangerous Cargoes - are substances in solid, liquid or gaseous form known to constitute a health, poison, fire or explosive hazard or those listed in the "Classification of Dangerous Goods" by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) as classes I to IX in the

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IMDG Code, the appropriate agency of the Philippine Government or the United Kingdom Carriage of Dangerous Goods in Ships (The Blue Book).

c) Inflammable Solids - are solids which under conditions encountered in transport are readily combustible, or may cause or contribute to fire through friction.

d) Inflammable Liquid - is any liquid which gives off inflammable vapors at temperatures of not more than 60.5°C closed cup or not more than 65.5°C open cup test.

e) Oxidizing Substances - are substances which, while in themselves are not necessarily combustible may, generally by yielding oxygen, cause or contribute to, the combustion of other materials.

f) Poisonous (Toxic) Substances - are substances liable either to cause death or serious injury or to harm human health if swallowed, inhaled or by skin contact.

g) Infectious Substances - are substances which are capable of communicating or spreading germs, thus are contagious to man or animals.

h) Corrosives - are substances which, by chemical action, will cause severe damage when in contact with living tissue, or in the case of leakage, will materially damage or even destroy other freight or the means of transport.

i) Miscellaneous Dangerous Goods - are substances which during transport present a danger not covered by other classes.

j) Flash Point - is the minimum temperature of the liquid at which it gives off sufficient vapor to form an ignitable mixture with air near the surface of the liquid. It is a convenient temperature for evaluating the degree of danger of flammable liquids. The term applies only to inflammable liquid and does not apply to solids and gases.

## II - Guidelines

Section 4. Documentary Requirements for the Handling of Dangerous Cargoes - The following documents shall be required before dangerous cargoes are allowed handling at the port for submission by the shipping company/agent or shipper concerned to the Authority or other government agencies as provided for under existing regulations:

a) Application for a permit authorizing the loading/discharging of dangerous cargoes, together with preliminary

manifest and cargo stowage plan, duly approved by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) (sample form as Annex "A");

b) Letter request for handling of dangerous cargoes duly approved by the Authority (Annexes "B" and "P-1");

c) Dangerous Cargo List to be submitted to the Authority for information (Annex "C");

d) Inward/Outward Foreign Manifest to be submitted to the Authority/Bureau of Customs/PCG for information/statistical purposes and assessment of port charges;

e) Inward/Outward Domestic Manifest to be submitted to the Authority for information/statistical purposes and assessment of port charges.

Section 5. General Handling Precautions/Requirements. The Port Manager and/or the Cargo Handling Operator, within their respective areas of responsibility shall ensure that:

a) Only highly qualified personnel who possess the necessary education, training and/or experience are employed in the handling of dangerous cargoes in order to prevent damage or destruction of property or injury or loss of life.

b) A responsible person is appointed by the cargo handling operator to supervise the handling of dangerous substances who is aware of the hazards involved and the steps to be taken in case of an emergency.

c) Dockworkers/stevedores required to handle dangerous cargoes shall be adequately provided with appropriate personal protective/safety equipments or devices, which among others, shall necessarily include the following:

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| . Gloves                        | . Portable Water Pumps  |
| . Safety Helmets                | . Fire Extinguishers    |
| . Coveralls/Protective Clothing | . Water/Sand Drums      |
| . Boots/Suitable Footware       | . Explosion Proof Lamps |
| . Breathing Apparatus           | . Overhead Tank and     |
| . Tight Fitting Goggles         | Stand Pipes             |

d) Conspicuous notices prohibiting smoking or loitering are posted at places where smoking would constitute a hazard or where it poses danger to life of persons.

e) Fire fighting equipment is ready for immediate use.

f) While dangerous goods are being handled, precautions are taken to prevent unauthorized access to handling areas.

Section 6. Place of Handling of Dangerous Cargoes. The requirements for handling (loading/discharging) dangerous cargoes in bulk, break-bulk or in containers at the pier/wharf/slip or at shipside are provided for in Sections 10 and 11, respectively, of the Article XVII of the Dockwork Safety and Health Standards, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 7. Guidelines on the Safe Handling and Storage of Dangerous Cargoes. The general requirements for the handling and storage of each class of dangerous cargoes as classified under the IMDG Code are provided for in Sections 14 to 22 of Article XVII of the Dockwork Safety and Health Standards, which are incorporated herein by reference. In addition thereto, the following guidelines shall be observed:

- a) The PMU shall ensure that dangerous goods entering the port have been duly certified or declared by the shipper of the goods as being properly classified, packaged, marked and labelled so as to comply with the appropriate provisions of the IMDG Code or alternatively with appropriate national or international standards applicable to the relevant mode of transport.
- b) Dangerous cargoes shall be unloaded first and loaded last, independently of other cargoes.
- c) No defective package or container with dangerous cargoes inside shall be landed or accepted for loading to vessels or any port except upon permission of the Authority under such conditions as it deems proper to impose.
- d) In the event containers of dangerous substances are broken or damaged while they were being loaded/discharged, they shall be isolated immediately and effective steps shall be taken.
- e) In case of emergency or in order to ensure the safety of the port, the Authority may destroy or otherwise dispose of any dangerous cargoes after due notice to the owners/consignees thereof, and the Authority shall not be liable for payment of compensation thereof.
- f) If anything occurs during the handling of dangerous cargoes, the Safety Officer shall be immediately informed of such incident that occurs within the port area and which might endanger the safety of personnel and, the person having charge of handling shall immediately cause the operation to be stopped if it is safe to do so and prevents it being resumed until adequate measures have been taken.

g) Dangerous cargoes shall be stowed safely and appropriately according to their respective IMCO classification. Incompatible goods shall be segregated from one another for a minimum distance of 2 meters (e.g. peroxides from permanganate, sugar from smelly cargoes). Materials that can react with each other shall be stored in separate areas (e.g. ammonium nitrate and sodium nitrite).

h) If practicable, dangerous cargoes shall be stacked/stored or transferred immediately for storage in a properly designated Dangerous Cargo Area. However, if such facilities cannot be made available, said cargoes shall be handled, as much as possible, on a direct delivery/withdrawal or direct loading to vessel basis.

i) No dangerous cargo shall be transferred to any place inside the harbor limits or any port without the written permission from the Authority and other government agencies concerned.

j) Containers with dangerous cargoes shall be inspected from time to time while in storage.

k) As a general rule, chemicals and smelly, poisonous or toxic cargoes shall be stowed separately from other cargoes, especially foodstuffs to avoid contamination.

l) Liquefied gases inside cylinders, regardless of whether full or empty shall be palletized before entry or exit from the port zone to minimize the unsafe practice of rolling and/or dropping these containers during handling operations.

m) Compressed gases shall never be stored near highly inflammable substances.

n) Dangerous cargoes which can cause spontaneous combustion when in contact with other cargoes shall be stored farthest from the rest (e.g. sulfuric acid with synthetic fertilizers or water, sodium metal and water, combustible materials with petroleum products aggravated by poor ventilation).

Section 8. Authority of the PMU Port Manager to Promulgate Guidelines/Issuances to Implement this Order. The Port Manager shall, after approval of this Order and in line with the authority granted them under Section 142 of the General Port Rules and Regulations, formulate supplementary guidelines/issuances which are necessary for the effective implementation of this Order, subject to approval by PPA Management.


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III - Final Provisions

Section 9. Saving Clause - Any provision or portion of this Order declared by competent authority as invalid shall not affect its other parts or provisions to which the declaration does not relate.

Section 10. Repealing Clause - All PPA orders, rules and regulations, policies, guidelines, memoranda or circular inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 11. Effectivity - This Order shall take effect immediately.

  
MAXIMO S. DUMLAOG, JR.  
Officer-in-Charge, PPA

POED/POD  
JRI/AYC/cms