

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2013

Regulations for Storage & Handling of Dangerous Goods

Dangerous goods are substances that may cause serious or deadly damage to people, property and the environment.

Revised regulations for the storage and handling of dangerous goods known as *Dangerous Goods (Storage and Handling) Regulations 2012* ("the new regulations") commenced on 1 December 2012. It replaces the *Dangerous Goods (Storage and Handling) Interim Regulations 2011* ("Interim Regulations").

The new regulations still impose similar requirements on the same duty holders as the Interim Regulations including manufacturers, first suppliers and occupiers.

A 'first supplier' is a person who has not manufactured the dangerous goods in Victoria, and is, or will be, the first person to supply the goods in Victoria to another person.

An 'occupier' includes a person who owns the premises and exercises control at the premises under a mortgage, lease or franchise, or is in charge of or exercising control or supervision at the premises as a manager or employee or in any other capacity.

The amendments include to definitions and requirements dealing with dangerous goods.

In cases where there is an amendment to documents which are referenced in the new regulations, duty holders have a period of 12 months to comply with any amended document. Business owners should use this time to familiarise themselves with the changes.

Trademarks for Transport & Warehousing Businesses

Trademarks are marks, logos, words, sounds, smells, pictures or symbols or an arrangement of these. If your transport or warehousing business has one or more trademarks which have not been registered, anyone may apply to register your trademark at anytime and exercise their rights to prevent you from continuing to use their mark. They may also claim compensation (including sales profit associated with using the mark).

There are many benefits with registering a trademark including:

1. Exclusive legal right to use your trademark for your services;
2. Prevents others from using your brand and damaging your reputation;
3. Provides intellectual property, which is a valuable business asset and can be sold or licensed.

MLB Lawyers & Associates advises clients on the most effective IP strategy to assist with business growth both in Australia and overseas.

MLB Lawyers & Associates, Level 1, 441 South Road, Bentleigh Victoria 3204

Telephone 1300 688 421 - Email: enquiries@mlblawyers.com.au

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