
THE DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES HANDLING AND STORAGE (AMENDMENT) LAW, 2015

(LAW 19 OF 2015)
THE DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES HANDLING AND STORAGE (AMENDMENT) LAW, 2015

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

Law 19 of 2015.

I Assent

Helen Kilpatrick
Governor.

Date: 24th November 2015.

A LAW TO AMEND THE DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES HANDLING AND STORAGE LAW, 2003; AND FOR INCIDENTAL AND CONNECTED PURPOSES

ENACTED by the Legislature of the Cayman Islands.

1. (1) This Law may be cited as the Dangerous Substances Handling and Storage (Amendment) Law, 2015.

   (2) This Law shall come into force on such date as may be appointed by order made by the Cabinet.

2. The Dangerous Substances Handling and Storage Law, 2003, in this Law referred to as “the principal Law”, is amended in section 1 by repealing the words “Handling and Storage”.

3. The principal Law is amended in section 2 as follows-

   (a) by inserting in the appropriate alphabetical sequence the following definitions-

      “Committee” means the Fuel Standards Committee established under section 9A;

      “importer” means the holder of an import permit”; and

      Date: 24th November 2015.
“Minister” means the Minister or member of Cabinet responsible for the operation of this Law; and

(b) by deleting the definition “concession”;

(c) by deleting the definition “Governor in Cabinet”;

(d) by deleting the definition of “handling” and substituting the following definition -

“handling”, in relation to a dangerous substance, includes the following -

(a) manufacturing, processing or treating the dangerous substance;

(b) supplying, receiving or dispensing the dangerous substance;

(c) marking or labelling an article, container or package of the dangerous substance, or placard or putting up signs in relation to the dangerous substance;

(d) packing, consigning or carrying the dangerous substance;

(e) storing the dangerous substance;

(f) possessing, or otherwise having custody or control of, the dangerous substance;

(g) using the dangerous substance; and

(h) disposing of the dangerous substance or rendering it harmless;”;

(e) by deleting the definition of “operator” and substituting the following definition -

“operator” -

“(a) in relation to a regulated premises which is not a private residential home, means a person who has the charge, management or control of the premises;

(b) in relation to a pipeline, means -

(i) the person who is to have or, once liquid is conveyed, has control over the conveyance of liquid in the pipeline;

(ii) until that person is known, where at a material time he is not yet known, the person who is to commission or, where commissioning has started, commissions the design and construction of the pipeline; or

(iii) when a pipeline is no longer, or is not for the time being used, the person last having control over the conveyance of liquid in it,
and shall include, where applicable, the owner of the pipeline;

(c) in relation to regulated premises which is a private residential home, the occupier of the premises; and

(d) in relation to a permitted vehicle, means the person who has the possession or use of the vehicle and who is either the registered sole or joint owner of the vehicle or is a person who has possession and use of the vehicle under a hire-purchase agreement or bill of sale or like instrument;”;

(g) by deleting the definition of “permitted vehicle” and substituting the following-

“permitted vehicle” includes a boat, truck, tanker or such other vehicle which is manufactured or modified to be used and which is used for the purpose of transporting dangerous substances;”;

and

(h) by deleting the definition “workplace” and by substituting therefor the following definition-

“regulated premises”-

(a) means any premises in which the following are stored-

(i) dangerous substances of an aggregate quantity of 250 gallons or more; or

(ii) in the case where the dangerous substance is compressed gas or compressed air, compressed gas or compressed air of an aggregate quantity of 250 liquid gallons or more stored at a pressure of 100 pounds per square inch or more at ambient temperature,

and such premises may include any storage terminal, retail outlet, utility company, commercial bulk storage facility, hospital, factory and a private residential home; but

(b) does not include any premises where only pressure, process or flow through tanks are stored;”.

4. The principal Law is amended as follows -

(a) Subject to section 2, by deleting the words “Governor in Cabinet” wherever they appear in the Law and by substituting the word “Cabinet”; and

(b) by deleting the word “workplace” wherever it appears in the Law and by substituting the words “regulated premises”.

Amendment of the principal Law
5. The principal Law is amended by repealing section 3 and the marginal note and by substituting the following -

3. (1) A person shall not import more than the prescribed amount of dangerous substances in any one day or in an aggregate period of 1 week or more without a valid import permit issued by the Chief Petroleum Inspector.

(2) An importer, on each importation of a dangerous substance for which an import permit is required under subsection (1), shall provide to the Chief Petroleum Inspector a record of such importation within 7 days of the date of the importation of the dangerous substance; and such record shall provide the name of the importer, the type and the quantum of the dangerous substance.

(3) The Chief Petroleum Inspector shall issue an import permit subject to conditions, limitations and terms which are in accordance with the provisions of this Law and regulations.

(4) The Chief Petroleum Inspector shall have such powers to amend or vary an import permit as are set out in regulations made under this section.

(5) An application for an import permit shall be made in writing in the prescribed manner and form and shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(6) An applicant shall provide the Chief Petroleum Inspector with any further information that the Chief Petroleum Inspector requires in considering the application.

(7) The duration of an import permit shall be stated in the import permit; and an import permit may be for a fixed period not exceeding 3 years.

(8) An import permit may be renewed from time to time in accordance with regulations.
(9) A person who imports petroleum and petroleum products without an import permit at the date of the commencement of this Law shall apply for an import permit within 1 month of the date of the commencement of regulations made under this section.

(10) Regulations made by the Cabinet shall prescribe such matters as are necessary for carrying out the purpose and provisions of this section and such matters may include-

(a) the grounds for cancellation of an import permit;
(b) rights of appeal to the Board where an import permit is refused or cancelled;
(c) the transferability of an import permit;
(d) the renewal of an import permit and the fees and the procedure for such renewals;
(e) surrender of an import permit; and
(f) replacement of lost import permits.

(11) An importer who imports more than the prescribed amount of dangerous substance without an import permit commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of $50,000 or to imprisonment for a term of 5 years or to both; and if the offence is a continuing one, to a further fine of $10,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

(12) An importer who fails to comply with subsection (2) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of $10,000.”.

6. The principal Law is amended in section 4 as follows -

(a) in subsection (7), by deleting the words “or for an indefinite duration”;
(b) in subsection (9), by deleting the words “this Law” wherever they appear and substituting the words “regulations made under this section”; and
(c) in subsection (10), by deleting the words “but are not limited to”.

Amendment of section 4 - operating permits
7. The principal Law is amended in section 5 as follows -
   (a) in subsection (1) as follows -
      (i) in paragraph (a) -
         (A) by deleting the words “Permanent Secretary” and by substituting the words “Chief Officer”; and
         (B) by inserting after the word “Law” the words “or his nominee”;
      (ii) in paragraph (b), by deleting the words “Permanent Secretary” and by substituting the words “Chief Officer”; and
      (iii) in paragraph (d), by deleting the word “Governor” and substituting the word “Cabinet”; and
   (b) in subsection (3), by deleting the words “Permanent Secretary” and by substituting the words “Chief Officer” and by inserting after the word “Law” the words “or his nominee”.

8. The principal Law is amended by repealing section 6 and substituting the following -

   “Functions of the Board

6. The Board shall be responsible for -

   (a) issuing operating permits for regulated premises and permitted vehicles that are subject to this Law and regulations under this Law;
   (b) hearing appeals against decisions made by the Committee and by the Chief Petroleum Inspector in accordance with regulations made under this Law; and
   (c) carrying out such other functions as are specified in this Law or in regulations made under this Law.”.

9. The principal Law is amended by inserting the following sections after section 9 -

   “Fuel Standards Committee

9A. (1) There is established a Fuel Standards Committee to carry out the duties specified in this Law and the Committee shall consist of -

   (a) the Chief Petroleum Inspector who shall be chairman;
   (b) the Director of the Department of Environmental Health or his nominee;
(c) the Director of Environment or his nominee;
(d) the Director of the Water Authority or his nominee; and
(e) a public officer of the Ministry appointed by the Chief Officer, who shall be an ex officio and non-voting member.

(2) The public officer appointed under subsection (1)(e) shall act as secretary to the Committee and shall take minutes of meetings, carry out such other duties and perform such other functions as are assigned by the chairman.

(3) The Committee may appoint or empanel sub-committees, whether from among members of the Committee or from among persons outside of the Committee or both, to study and make recommendations to the Committee on any aspect of the regulation of fuel standards referred by the Committee.

(4) Members of a sub-committee who are not members of the Committee are required to have-
(a) relevant scientific or technical knowledge in the area of fuel quality standards; or
(b) qualifications in chemistry, biology or environmental studies, or both such knowledge and qualifications; and such members shall be paid allowances as the Cabinet may determine.

(5) The payment of such allowances shall be paid out of the revenue of the Islands.

(6) The procedures of a sub-committee shall be determined by the chairman of the Committee in accordance with this Law and regulations.
9B. The Committee shall carry out such duties as are specified in this Law and in regulations and such duties may include -

(a) establishing the standards of certain types of fuel to be imported and distributed in the Islands;
(b) publishing or causing to be published, in such medium as they determine, such standards and the testing methods to be used by importers and the Chief Petroleum Inspector in the inspection of fuel in order to ensure compliance with the standards; and
(c) providing quarterly, bi-annual, annual or such other periodic reports to the Minister on its operations.

9C. (1) The Committee shall meet at such times as may be necessary for the transaction of business and such meetings shall be held at such places and times and on such days as the Committee determines.

(2) The chairman of the Committee shall preside at meetings of the Committee.

(3) The quorum of the Committee shall be the 3 voting members of the Committee.

(4) Subject to this Law, the Committee shall have power to regulate its own practice and procedure and shall take all actions and reach its decisions by a majority of votes and, in addition to an original vote, the chairman shall have a casting vote in any case in which the voting is equal.

(5) If a member of the Committee has any pecuniary or other interest in any matter to be
dealt with by the Committee he shall disclose the fact to the Committee and shall not take part in any meeting at which the matter is considered or discussed.

(6) A member who fails to comply with subsection (5) commits an offence and is liable -

(a) on summary conviction to a fine of $20,000 and to imprisonment for 2 years or to both; or

(b) on conviction on indictment to a fine of $50,000 and to imprisonment for 5 years or to both,

unless he proves that he did not know that the matter in which he had an interest was the subject of consideration at that meeting.

(7) A disclosure under subsection (5) shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Committee.

(8) For the purposes of subsection (5), a member of the Committee shall be treated, as having a pecuniary interest in a matter if he is the director or employee or consultant of the importer who is the subject of the matter.

9D. (1) Where, after inspections are carried out in accordance with this Law, it is found by the Chief Petroleum Inspector or by an inspector that an importer has been importing and distributing to operators fuel which does not accord with standards published under section 9B, the Chief Petroleum Inspector shall require the importer to comply forthwith with any written direction not inconsistent with this Law which the Chief Petroleum Inspector believes on reasonable grounds is necessary to ensure that the importation or distribution of such fuel is immediately discontinued.
(2) An importer who fails to comply with a direction under subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable to an administrative penalty; and the relevant import permit of such person may be suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedure set out in this Law.

(3) An importer who, more than once in any period of 1 year, imports and distributes fuel which is found by the Chief Petroleum Inspector not to be in accordance with the standards set by the Fuel Committee commits an offence and is liable to an administrative penalty; and the relevant import permit of such person may be suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedure prescribed by this Law.

10. The principal Law is amended by inserting the following new sections after section 10 -

10A. The Chief Petroleum Inspector shall monitor changes in fuel prices in the Islands, and for such purposes, collect from importers, and compile, analyse and abstract, information on fuel prices and pricing methods and provide such information to the Minister.

10B. The powers vested in the Chief Petroleum Inspector by section 10A shall apply notwithstanding that the subject matter in respect of which the powers are exercisable is the subject matter of any other Law or any agreement.

10C. Notwithstanding section 10(4), where the function under section 10A is to be performed by any public officer of the Ministry, that public officer shall only carry out such function if he is authorised in writing to do so by the Chief Petroleum Inspector.

10D. The methodology used in the collection, compilation, analysis and abstraction of information by the Chief Petroleum Inspector under section 10A shall be approved by the Cabinet; and the Chief Petroleum Inspector shall cause to be published in such medium
as he determines a summary of such methodology.

10E. The Cabinet may make regulations in relation to the exercise of the functions of the Chief Petroleum Inspector specified under section 10A and generally for matters connected thereto.

10F. (1) An importer shall, at the request of the Chief Petroleum Inspector, provide to the Chief Petroleum Inspector -

(a) information on the price for all fuel imported and sold by the importer; and

(b) the pricing methods utilised by the importer in the sale of fuel to operators and consumers,

for such date or periods as the Chief Petroleum Inspector shall specify and the importer shall provide the information to the Chief Petroleum Inspector on or by the date specified in the request.

(2) Information relating to subsection (1) may include -

(a) first costs;

(b) cost of freight;

(c) insurance costs;

(d) brokerage costs;

(e) custom duties;

(f) estimates of quantity and type of fuel in stock;

(g) amount and type of fuel nominated to be imported in the next shipment; and

(h) such other information as is prescribed.

10G. (1) An importer who-

(a) fails or refuses to provide the information requested by the Chief Petroleum Inspector under subsection (1); or

(b) being required to furnish information or to supply particulars under subsection (1), knowingly or recklessly makes any statement relating to the
information or particulars which is false or misleading in any material particular or furnishes information or supplies particulars which are false or misleading in any material particular or who practices any other deception in furnishing the information or supplying the particulars,

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of $250,000 or to imprisonment for a term of 1 year or to both; and if the offence is a continuing one, to an administrative penalty of $10,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence has continued.

(2) In addition to the penalty under subsection (1),

(a) the Government may bring civil proceedings against an importer for the purpose of obtaining a court order requiring the importer to provide all information requested under section 10F; and

(b) the relevant import permit of the importer may be suspended, or cancelled in accordance with the procedure prescribed by this Law.

Access to public records

10H. Where the Chief Petroleum Inspector is of the opinion that, in order to carry out his function under section 10A, he requires access to certain custom records of the Customs Department relating to the importation of fuel, he shall, in writing, after consultation with the Chief Officer, require the Collector of Customs to provide such copies of the customs records as are specified in the request; and the Collector of Customs shall cause the copies of the records to be provided to the Chief Petroleum Inspector.

Immunity

10I. Neither the Collector of Customs nor any public officer of the Customs Department directed by the Collector of Customs to provide copies of records
under section 10H, shall be liable in damages for anything done or omitted in the discharge or purported discharge of their duty to provide such records under section 10H, unless it is shown that the act or omission was in bad faith.

Confidentiality

10J. (1) Subject to subsection (2), individual data collected by the Chief Petroleum Inspector under section 10F and 10H, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are strictly confidential and shall be used exclusively for the purposes of section 10A.

(2) Information provided under section 10F and 10H shall not be disclosed by the Chief Petroleum Inspector in identifiable form to any person other than the Chief Officer and the Ministers and members of the Cabinet.”.

11. The principal Law is amended in section 12 as follows -

(a) in subsection (1), by deleting the words “The operator of any workplace” and by substituting the words “An operator”;  
(b) in subsection (3), by inserting after the word “workplace” where it first appears the words “or in any permitted vehicle” and after the word “workplace” where it appears for the second time the words “or in that permitted vehicle”; and  
(c) by repealing subsections (4) and (5) and substituting the following -

“(4) An operator who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of $20,000 or to imprisonment for a term of 1 year or to both.

(5) A person who contravenes subsections (2) or (3) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of $20,000 or to imprisonment for a term of 1 year or to both.”.
12. The principal Law is amended in section 13 as follows -

(a) in subsection (1) -
   (i) by deleting the words “The operator of a workplace” and by substituting the words “An operator”; and
   (ii) by deleting the words “any dangerous substances” and substituting the words “dangerous substances of a prescribed amount”;
(b) by repealing subsection (2) and substituting the following -
   “(2) The report under subsection (1) shall include the following -
      (a) the amount and type of the dangerous substance that was released or spilled;
      (b) a description of the circumstances of the release or spillage;
      (c) the action being taken to mitigate injury to persons or harm to the environment; and
      (d) any measures being taken to prevent such a release or spillage in the future.”;
(c) by repealing subsection (3) and substituting the following -
   “(3) Where any accidental release or spillage involving dangerous substances has occurred at a work place or from a permitted vehicle, the operator shall take all reasonable action to ensure that no person disturb, move or remove any wreckage or debris resulting from the release or spillage except with the permission and in accordance with any directions of the Chief Petroleum Inspector.”; and
(d) in subsection (5), by deleting the words “and is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for 1 year and to a fine of “$20,000” and by substituting the words “and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of $20,000 or to imprisonment for a term of 1 year or to both”.

13. The principal Law is amended in section 14 as follows -

(a) in subsection (1) -
   (i) by repealing paragraph (a) and substituting the following -
   “(a) visit any workplace -
      (i) in the case of a routine check, after giving at least 24 hours’ notice in writing; or
      (ii) in the case of investigating a complaint, without notice,
at any time during the working hours of that particular workplace and inspect the workplace and any container, equipment, fittings, piping or appliance that he believes on reasonable grounds is or are being used or is or are likely to be used or has or have recently been used for or in connection with the supply, transfer, storage, transport, sale, handling or use of dangerous substances; and

(ii) in paragraph (b), by inserting before the word “he” the words “are or that”; and

(b) in subsection (3), by deleting the words “and is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for 1 year and to a fine of “$20,000” and by substituting the words “and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of $20,000 or to imprisonment for a term of 1 year or to both.

14. The principal Law is amended in section 15(2) as follows -

(a) by repealing paragraph (d) and substituting the following -

“(d) as a condition of an operating permit, at regular intervals during the period of such permit, inspecting those regulated premises which are storage terminals, utility companies commercial bulk storage facilities and retail outlets to assess-

(i) documented safety and environmental information relating to chemical hazard information, equipment design information, design codes and standards employed by a workplace;

(ii) emergency preparedness plans, co-ordination and drills;

(iii) standardised employee training programs at workplaces;

(iv) the implementation of safety and environmental management systems at workplaces;

(v) formalised maintenance programs with schedules and documented results of inspections or tests; and

(vi) the proper management of pipeline operations including proper marking, corrosion protection and release detection features;”; and

(b) by inserting after paragraph (d) the following paragraph-

“(da) as a condition of an operating permit, at regular intervals during the period of such permit, inspecting all regulated premises to-
(i) assess the integrity of containers, pipelines and permitted vehicles;
(ii) assess the condition of secondary containment dikes, berms or impoundments;
(iii) assess spill reporting with root-cause investigation and corrective action;
(iv) test the reliability of release detection equipment and emergency controls systems;
(v) assess the safety of transporting fuel to and from the premises; and
(vi) assess the proper management of above and underground storage tanks including secondary containment, release detection and inventory control systems;"

(c) by inserting at the end of paragraph (f) the words “other than private residential homes”; and
(d) by inserting at the end of paragraph (g) the words “at regulated premises other than private residential homes;”.

15. The principal Law is amended in section 21(1) by deleting the words “and shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding $50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or both” and substituting the words “and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of $50,000 or to imprisonment for a term of 5 years or to both”.

16. The principal Law is amended in section 22 as follows -

(a) in subsection (2), by deleting the words “and liable on summary conviction to a fine of $10,000 and to imprisonment for 1 year” and by substituting the words “and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of $10,000 or to imprisonment for a term of 1 year or to both”;
(b) in subsection (3), by deleting the words “and liable on summary conviction to a fine of $4,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months” and by substituting the words “and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of $4,000 or to imprisonment for a term of 6 months or to both”; and
(c) in subsection (6), by repealing paragraphs (b) and (c)

17. The principal Law is amended by inserting the following section after section 23-

23A. Cabinet may make regulations providing for an administrative penalty system to apply to any offence under this Law and the regulations and for all matters that are
necessary to be prescribed for giving effect to such system.”.

18. The principal Law is amended in section 24 as follows-

(a) by inserting after paragraph (c) the following paragraph-
“(ca) safety standards and precautions in relation to pipelines and
dangerous substances contained in pipelines;”;

(b) by deleting paragraph (d) and substituting the following paragraph-
“(d) further responsibilities, powers and administration of-
(i) the Chief Petroleum Inspector and inspectors;
(ii) the Board; and
(iii) the Committee;”;

(c) by inserting after paragraph (k) the following paragraphs-
“(ka) the licensing of contractors to perform installation,
repair, maintenance and related work in or on regulated
premises and permitted vehicles;
(kb) matters related to the operation and control of regulated
premises such as terminal facilities, bulk storage facilities
and depots;
(kc) matters relating to divestment, sale and transfer of
ownership or shares of certain prescribed types of regulated
premises including terminals, retail facilities and bulk
depots; and
(kd) matters relating generally to permitted vehicles including
the inspection of such vehicles by the Chief Petroleum
Inspector.”; and

(d) by deleting paragraph (m) and substituting the following paragraph-
“(m) any other matter required to be prescribed or for the better
carrying out of the objects and purposes of this Law.”.

19. The principal Law is amended by repealing section 26 and substituting the following -

26. (1) The Chief Petroleum Inspector or a petroleum
inspector may, with the assistance of a police constable
or officer of the fire brigade as the case may require, at
any time, enter premises or a vehicle if he believes, on
reasonable grounds, that the circumstances are of such
seriousness and urgency as to require immediate entry to
the premises or vehicle without notice or permission of
the operator of the premises or vehicle.
(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Chief Petroleum Inspector or a petroleum inspector-

(a) may direct the driver of the vehicle to move the vehicle to a place to which the public has access, provided that to do so would pose no risk or danger to any person;

(b) may exercise powers of inspection under this Law in relation to the vehicle at the place; and

(c) shall not detain the vehicle for longer than is reasonably necessary to exercise his powers under this Law.

(3) Where the Chief Petroleum Inspector or the petroleum inspector is of the opinion after entry under this section that measures are necessary to prevent, or avert danger of, the release or spillage of dangerous substances, he shall serve an emergency notice in writing on any person over the age of 18 who is in the premises or vehicle to immediately adopt any measures he considers necessary to prevent or avert danger of, the release or spillage of dangerous substances.

(4) A notice under subsection (3) shall specify the measures to be taken and shall be served personally by the Chief Petroleum Inspector or by the petroleum inspector who shall explain the matter to the persons concerned and superintend or assist in the carrying out of the measures specified.

(5) Whoever fails or refuses to comply with a notice under subsection (3) or offers or threatens any resistance or obstruction to the Chief Petroleum Inspector or the petroleum inspector in the carrying out of his functions under this section commits an offence
and liable on summary conviction to a fine of $10,000 or to imprisonment for a term of 1 year or to both.”.

Passed by the Legislative Assembly the 21st day of October, 2015

Juliana O’Connor-Connolly
Speaker.

Zena Merren-Chin
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.