

15th June 2008

Appendix A – 3350/175

Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

Hazard Diamonds on Network Rail Vehicles

A number of Network Rail vehicles have been stopped by the police recently because they have been showing hazard diamonds (see below) when there was no need to do so. These signs are designed to warn the emergency services, if called to an incident, that a vehicle contains hazardous material.



However, these signs should only be shown when the vehicle is actually transporting more than a certain amount of these materials.

What materials can be carried without the need for a hazard sign?

Up to 333 litres (or kilograms) of flammable goods (excluding the container weight) can be carried without a hazard sign being fitted. The following are examples of materials we carry: -

Oxygen – 1.5kg; Propane – 23.5kg; Acetylene – 20kg per bottle

Regardless of the volume carried, it is a requirement to have a 2kg dry powder fire extinguisher in the vehicle.

If there is no hazard sign, how do the emergency services know what is carried?

The goods that we carry, including portions and detonators, must be carried in suitable containers. Detonators must be carried in their plastic containers and stored in a metal box that is lockable. While all flammable liquids must be transported in a flame resistant box. If we are carrying petrol it must be in a UN approved container (UN2305) not red plastic or WW2 Gerry can. Petrol must be stored in a flame resistant box when being transported. All cylinders of gases whether pressured or liquid must be secured in the vehicle before the journey commences.

What should we do?

All vehicle loads should be assessed and hazard diamonds removed where they are carrying less than the 333 litre/kg limit. The symbols will be removed at the next service. If the vehicle is not due for service within the next 3 months, you can arrange to have them removed via your local vehicle coordinator or by calling FSG on 08700 607766.

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