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THE NECESSITY OF SAFETY & CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE
HANDLING AND TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

by

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Presentation Outline



- Introduction
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- Section 10.... Handling and Transport of Dangerous Goods,
 - Role of EPA
- The need Safety & Control Measures
- Gaps and Challenges
- Way forward
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INTRODUCTION

DEFINITION OF DANGEROUS GOODS:

- Materials or items with hazardous properties which if not properly controlled present a potential hazard to human health and safety, infrastructure and or means of their transport
- Nine (9) classes
 1. Explosives
 2. gases
 3. flammable liquids
 4. flammable solids
 5. oxidizing substances
 6. Toxic & infectious substances
 7. radioactive
 8. corrosives
 9. miscellaneous
- Failure to observe the necessary safety and control measures in the handling and transport of these goods have resulted in extensive damage to life and property sometimes with dire environmental and social consequences



Mandate of EPA & Subsidiary Legislations

- The EPA Act 1994 (Act.490)

Established the agency with 19 functions

- Section 10 of the Act (Hazardous goods are regulated under this section)
- The Environmental Assessment Regulations, 1999 (LI1652) – Environmental Permit issued for all undertakings
- Hazardous and Electronic waste control and management Act, 2016 (Act 917) & Hazardous, Electronic and Other Wastes (Classification) Control & Mgt Regulations, 2016 (LI2250)



EPA'S Role in Transport of Dangerous goods

- The Agency recognizes the necessity of safety and controls ensures that the transport of dangerous goods are licensed

with a no. of conditions which must be complied with which include:

(1. tracking system 2. insurance 3. PPE 4. EP&RP , Spill containment equipment 5. SDS of the substance 6. knowledge of driver of chemicals being transported 7. Route 8. Escort 9. inform/alerting other stakeholders 10. vehicle in good condition 11. trained drivers and regular refresher courses 12. Driver with mate etc)

The Need for Safety & Control Measures



- We have recorded a number of terrible incidents which could have been avoided if the proper controls and basic safety have been observed
- The consequences of such terrible incidents on life and property as well as the environmental scars and the social and psychological impacts calls for the adherence of safety and control measures
- A number of recorded tragedies include:
 1. The infamous June 3rd 2015, disaster at circle in Accra (more than 120 lives were lost not to mention property damage)

Need for safety and controls cont'd



1. Atomic junction gas explosion
2. Trade Fair gas explosion
3. Nungua zongo gas explosion
4. Sunyani gas explosion
5. Takoradi gas explosion
6. Accident in the eastern region involving a truck carrying caustic soda
7. Spill of sodium cyanide in Tarkwa
8. Quite a number of BRVs carrying gas and petrol have been involved in accidents on our roads

Pictures of some of the incidents



Caustic Soda (Dangerous Goods)

Accident in the eastern region involving a truck carrying caustic soda



Atomic junction gas explosion



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Gaps and Challenges



- Communities have no knowledge of types of hazards being transported
- Scattered mandate which needs to be coordinated
- Weak monitoring & enforcement
- Accident investigation reports difficult to come by
- Lessons learnt to enable review
- Low level of awareness on the hazards associated with dangerous goods
- Weak capacity of institutions
- Among others

Way forward

- Enactment of specific legislation with commensurate penalties for the transport of dangerous goods
- Training for the judiciary and the AGs Dept.
- Establishment of emergency response teams in communities along which dangerous goods are moved.
- Engaging qualified personnel to handle dangerous goods
- Training for industry and regulators
- Implementation of emergency preparedness and response plan by all stakeholders along the value chain
- Use of appropriate vehicles in good conditions to transport dangerous goods

- Proper packaging of dangerous goods
- Availability of incident investigation reports to general public and critical stakeholder to enable reviews and learn lessons for the future
- Strengthening of engagement of stakeholder institutions responsible for the transport of dangerous goods
- Education and awareness programs
- Regular education and awareness programs for identified communities along which dangerous goods are transported.
- Professional bodies to put pressure on institutions responsible for transport of dangerous goods

Conclusion

- Safety is the responsibility of all
- The necessity for safety and control measures for the transport and handling of dangerous goods cannot be overemphasized
- The cost to the country, society and the lingering environmental and social consequences makes it imperative for safety and control measures to be strictly adhered to in the handling and transport of dangerous goods
- Legislations, enforcement , supervision and the necessary awareness creation will go a long way to reduce accidents and their effects during the transport of dangerous goods



Thank you for your attention

QUESTIONS ARE WELCOME