

Fact Sheet: Use of Black Plastic Stretch Wrap on Dangerous Goods Pallets

Issued by: NSW EPA

Overview

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been advised that some companies use **black plastic stretch wrap** to obscure the contents of dangerous goods pallets. This practice raises concerns regarding:

- Regulatory compliance
- Safety risks
- Proper segregation of incompatible substances

Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG Code) Requirements

A pallet of packaged dangerous goods wrapped in stretch wrap is known as an overpack.

Unless all marks and labels on the packages of dangerous goods in an overpack are visible, the overpack must be marked and labelled with:

1. The proper shipping name
2. UN number
3. Other marks as required by **chapter 5.2** ADG Code

for **each** dangerous goods item contained within the overpack.

Incompatible Dangerous Goods

When transporting a placard load, incompatible classes of dangerous goods must **not** be transported together.

Incompatible classes must not be placed together within the same overpack.

Examples from the pool industry include:

- **Sodium hypochlorite (pool chlorine)** – Class 8 (Corrosive)
- **Hydrochloric acid (pool acid)** – Class 8 (Corrosive, but chemically incompatible with chlorine)
- **Calcium hypochlorite** – Class 5.1 (Incompatible with corrosive (Class 8))



Figure 1: example of labelling on black stretch wrapped pallets

Further Guidance

For additional details on segregation and placard load requirements, visit: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/Your-environment/Dangerous-goods/Video-explainers>

Reporting Non-Compliance

If you suspect that consignors are dispatching dangerous goods without correct labelling or segregation, you are encouraged to report the matter to Environment Line at 131 555 for investigation by the EPA.