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Separation distances for Class 3.1C substances in containers exceeding 60L

This regulatory clarification explains which separation distances to protected places apply to Type A-D stores that hold class 3.1C substances.

The Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017 (HS Regulations) set minimum separation distances between flammable liquid storage areas (Type A-D stores) and protected places.

Stores holding class 3.1C in containers of any size

Regulations [11.12](#) (for stores that are not hazardous substance locations (HSLs)) and [11.30](#) (for stores that are HSLs) apply to Type A-D stores holding class 3.1C substances in containers of any size. The required separation distances are specified in [Table 6 of Schedule 12](#)

Stores holding class 3.1C containers over 60L

Regulations [11.14](#) (non HSLs) and [11.34](#) (HSLs) apply where a Type A-D store holds containers with over 60 L of class 3.1A, 3.1B, or 3.1C substances. In these circumstances, the required separation distances are specified in [Table 7 of Schedule 12](#)

When both Table 6 and Table 7 apply

Because regulations [11.12](#) and [11.30](#) apply to class 3.1C substances held in containers, regardless of size, any store holding class 3.1C substances in containers larger than 60 L must consider the requirements of both:

- [Table 6 \(from regs 11.12 and 11.30\)](#) and
- [Table 7 \(from regs 11.14 and 11.34\)](#)

Where two applicable requirements differ, the HS Regulations require the more stringent requirement to be met. This means that when both tables apply, the distances specified in Table 7 must be complied with, as these are greater.

Example

A Type A or B store holding drums, of over 60L capacity of class 3.1C substances with an aggregate quantity of 2,000L must maintain:

- a 3m separation distance to a protected place under reg 11.30 (Table 6), and
- a 7m separation distance under reg 11.34 (Table 7).

The required separation distance that will apply is 7m.