

Aerosols - An Overview

What are Aerosols and what class are Aerosols?

Put simply, an aerosol can is a self-contained dispensing system where the metal cylinder houses a substance, that can be released as a fine mist (spray) or foam. Aerosol cans are used in this fashion for a very wide variety of substances including paints, lubricants, cleaners, fly sprays, and deodorisers.

Regardless of the substance, all aerosols are classified as a Class 2.1 Dangerous Good (DG) due to the propellant.

For an overview of hazardous substances read our editorial [here](#).

Where are Aerosols most likely to be found?

Because of the variety of substances, they are also found in almost every industry. However, some industries have a larger requirement, and these would include the automotive sector, mechanical workshops, civil construction sites, and engineering facilities.

What are the risks to people and the environment?

The products in the aerosol may not be hazardous exactly but as these are packed under pressure within the can, the propellant may explode should they get punctured, or damaged in some way. In instances where the product inside is flammable, then the risk of explosion and fire increases substantially.

This is particularly true where cans are stored in hot environments or placed close to hot or heat generating machinery.

Hot Tip! Even an empty aerosol can should never be punctured as any chemical residue inside can still present an explosion risk.

How do I store Aerosols?

The guidelines around the safe storage of aerosols is covered by the AS/NZS 3833 Standard - The Storage and Handling of Mixed Classes of Dangerous Goods.

Within the above Standard it states aerosol cans must be:

- Protected from the weather and direct sunlight
- Stored at least 3m from heat and ignition sources
- Kept 1.5m from flammable liquids, when held in a dedicated aerosol store
- Stored in a way that prevents stacked cartons from falling over or collapsing

What are the design requirements for cabinets?

The critical thing when storing aerosol cans is that as a Class 2 DG, they cannot be stored inside the same cabinet as Class 3 Flammable Liquids. Therefore, while it is not uncommon for aerosol cans to be stored inside a flammable cabinet, there must be no Class 3 liquids in there at the same time, and the vent plugs open to allow the cabinet to freely vent.

However, to minimise any confusion and lower the risk potential for unsafe storage, we recommend your aerosols are stored in **dedicated Aerosol Stores**, which are well vented, fully secure, and clearly labelled with the correct hazard decals.

Hazero Aerosol Stores are available in five sizes:

- [Hazero Aerosol Store - 18 can](#)
- [Hazero Aerosol Store - 36 can](#)
- [Hazero Aerosol Store - 70 can](#)
- [Hazero Aerosol Store - 140 can](#)
- [Hazero Aerosol Store - 280 can](#)



Hazero Aerosol Store - 140 can

What are the ventilation requirements for Aerosol stores?

Overheating and explosion is always a risk when choosing where and how to store your aerosols. Therefore, choosing a storage unit that has plenty of natural ventilation, and located in an area shielded from direct heat, is very important.

What are the storage quantity limits for Aerosols?

You are required to set up a Hazardous Substance Location (HSL) for aerosols, once the amount present exceeds 3,000L aggregate water capacity, for more than 18 hours. While this is a lot of aerosols, many industries are opting to secure or segregate their aerosols at much lower levels than this.

Where can I put an Aerosol Store?

To minimise the risk of heat exposure, sparks, or similar hazards, the AS/NZS Standard states your aerosol store needs to be kept at least 3 metres from heat and ignition sources.

What are the signage requirements for Aerosol Stores?

Stores holding aerosols need to be clearly labelled as such – with a dedicated Class 2 Flammable Gas decal.

Are there secondary containment regulations when storing aerosols?

As these are a gas, there is no requirement for secondary containment when storing aerosols.

Incompatible substances

Please consult the [Hazero Dangerous Goods Segregation Chart](#) for specific details.

The Hazero Shield of Honour



The Hazero Shield of Honour is more powerful than a “lifetime guarantee”.

It means our reputation is on the line not only when a product is sold, but every single time it is used. If the product doesn’t meet your expectations over the next 99

years, we or our descendants (we’re a multi-generational company), will refund, replace, or repair it. Free of charge.

You don’t need a receipt. Or even a reason. No questions asked. Naturally, that’s so long as you use your Hazero product as intended and in accordance with existing legislation.

Shield your people. Shield your business.
Find out more [here](#).

Creating safer working environments

At Hazero our mission is zero hazards. Our extensive range of quality products will help you store, contain and control and clean-up dangerous goods and hazardous substances.

View our full range of Hazero Aerosol Stores [here](#).

Need help creating a safer working environment?

Contact our team today on 0800 688 844 or email us at info@hazero.co.nz. Our team are also available for on-site assessments across New Zealand, click [here](#) to request a site visit.

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