

Introduction

During a recent incident, a 4L bottle of acetonitrile slipped from a person's hands and broke while being returned to a Dangerous Goods (DG) cabinet. It is good practice to isolate solvents in DG cabinets or chemical storerooms, reducing the risk of chemical exposure or fire, but the risk of spills while moving bottles must be managed.

Key Messages

- Storing solvents in dangerous goods cabinets and storerooms is good practice
- Manage the risk when moving bottles between locations
- When carrying or transporting chemicals, always use secondary containment such as enclosed bottle carriers or a trolley with bunding or spill trays

Risk

If broken or spilled, a large bottle presents a significant risk to health and safety by chemical exposure (such as burns or inhalation), fire, or slipping on a wet surface. The larger the bottle, the greater the risk. Bottles can be awkward to carry. They can easily slip out of wet hands or ill-fitting gloves, or while manoeuvring through doors.

Recommendations

- Depending on volume required, consider ordering smaller bottles (larger than 2.5L is not recommended)
- Use a banded trolley or an enclosed bottle carrier to protect bottles and contain spills or leaks
- Consider replacing glass bottles with fixed-location options such as carboy with a spigot or a dispensette
- Door stops (or a buddy) are very handy when transporting bottles between rooms
- If you are wearing gloves, make sure they are the right size for your hands. Gloves should be removed before moving between rooms
- Be mindful of ergonomic and manual handling risks such as bending, reaching or twisting
- Know where your spill kit is, and how to use it



Further information

[Chemical Management Guidelines](#)

[Chemical Spill Response Quick Guide](#)

[Health & Safety Contacts](#)