

# **Ammunition Storage, Handling, and Transportation**

AR 385-64 and TM 9-1300-206 specify how ammunition items must be stored, including quantity-distance (QD) separation requirements and storage compatibility. FM 9-13 provides basic information on ammunition separation and storage in a field environment. This manual also addresses forward area rearm/refuel point (FARP) operations and requisitioning/turn-in of ammunition.

There must be adequate separation distance between ammunition storage sites (e.g., ammunition in buildings, on pads, or on vehicles/ aircraft) and work areas, buildings, and public traffic routes. Required separation distances are contained in chapters 9 and 10 of AR 385-64 and chapters 4 and 5 of TM 9-1300-206.

Not all items of ammunition may be stored or transported together in accordance with compatibility requirements. Examples are prohibitions against storing/transporting blasting caps with plastic explosives or high explosive (HE) projectiles and transporting or storing incendiary grenades with any Class A or B explosive, such as an HE projectile or propellant. Basic load storage/holding areas (BLSA/BLHA) with a net explosive weight of 4,000 kgs (8,800 lbs.) or less are exempt from storage compatibility requirements; however, items within a BLSA/BLHA should still be separated to the extent possible.

Whenever possible, ammunition storage/holding areas should be barricaded to reduce fragmentation and blast hazards in the event of an explosion. Use natural land features such as holes, depressions, or sandbags as a barricade. You can even park armored vehicles in such a manner as to provide a barricade effect. When selecting/constructing a barricade, ensure that the materials you use will not create a secondary fragmentation hazard in the event of an explosion. Barricades should not be built of materials such as rocks or loose wood.

Gloves and eye protection must be made available to personnel who cut banding and lift wooden ammunition boxes. These assigned personnel must wear this equipment when cutting the banding and lifting the ammunition boxes. (TM 9-1300-206)

Ammunition handlers will wear steel-toed shoes when performing operations involving artillery, tank, or boxed/ palletized ammunition. (TM 9-1300-206)

No smoking and no operating of spark or flame-producing items are permitted within 50 feet of ammunition and explosives.

Incendiary, smoke, and pyrotechnic items will be stored and transported separately and not mixed with other items.

Munitions filled with riot-control agents will be stored and transported separately from all other items.

White phosphorous/plasticized white phosphorous (WP/PWP) will only be stored base-down at all times.(TM 9-1300-206)

Water-fired barrels or tubs will be available at all pads/sites used to store WP and PWP-filled munitions.

Unit procedures for marking and segregating suspended ammunition are:

- Suspended lots must be visibly marked using DD Form 1575 (Suspension-Tag-Material) and DA Form 3872 (Suspension Notice); or,
- as a minimum, be marked by placing a sign on the stack indicating the lot is suspended or restricted.

Unserviceable and potentially hazardous ammunition should be stored in a separate area away from work areas and other areas containing serviceable ammunition.

Drivers and/or supervisors of vehicles selected to transport ammunition will inspect the vehicle, using DD Form 626, before dispatching it to pick up ammunition or explosives.

If ammunition or explosives are stored on vehicles or trailers, even temporarily, these vehicles must be separated from each other.

Vehicles and trailers loaded with explosives will be separated from inhabited buildings and public traffic routes? (In most cases, this will not apply to vehicles parked on ranges.)

Ammunition stored on vehicles or trailers will be palletized; however, if the ammunition is not palletized, a minimum of 3 inches of dunnage should be between the ammunition and the bed of the vehicle.

Parking brakes will be set, wheels chocked, and tarpaulins, bows, and end curtains installed on all parked vehicles and trailers loaded with ammunition or explosives.