

Alterations with effect from 01.01.2003 for VbF (Decree on Flammable Liquids) facilities as a result of the new Industrial Safety Regulations (BetrSichV)

As a result of the new Industrial Safety Regulations there are formal alterations for VbF facilities (e.g. stores for flammable liquids). As a result of the repeal of the VbF with effect from 01.01.2003 from this time on the requirements of the new BetrSichV apply for VbF facilities that require monitoring.

The hazard classes A I, A II, A II and B previously used for classification of flammable liquids are replaced by descriptions from the hazardous substances laws („flammable“, „highly flammable“, „extremely flammable“). According to the new provisions of the BetrSichV, VbF facilities of the previous hazard class A III are no longer classified as „facilities that must be monitored“. There is a further formal easing of the requirements for VbF facilities: now only approval has to be gained – the duty of notification is no longer applicable. Threshold amounts have also been removed from the requirement to obtain approval.

For formal reasons after the repeal of the VbF the Technical Rules for Flammable Liquids (TRbFs) must be transferred to Technical Rules for Industrial Safety. Until this has taken place and the relevant new Technical Rules have been published the TRbFs continue to be valid in their existing form.

1. Comparison between VbF and BetrSichV classifications

VbF classification	Criteria	BetrSichV classification
A I	Liquids with flashpoint (FP) < 21°C	Highly flammable or extremely flammable
A II	Liquids with an FP from 21°C to 55°C	Flammable
A III	Liquids with an FP above 55°C to 100°C	- (None, according to the new BetrSichV previous A III facilities are no longer regarded as requiring to be monitored)
B	Liquids with an FP < 21°C, which dissolve in water at 15°C or whose combustible liquid components dissolve in water at 15°C	Highly flammable or extremely flammable

2. Classification according to the Hazardous Substance Laws for liquids on which the BetrSichV is based

Classification	Warning symbol	R-phrases	Criteria
Extremely flammable	F+	R 12	Liquids / preparations with FP < 0°C and and boiling point (BP) ≤ 35°C
Highly flammable	F	R 11	Highly flammable: solids / preparations with FP < 21°C (but not extremely flammable)
		R 15	Contact with water liberates extremely flammables gases; substances / preparations that on contact with water / moist air liberate extremely flammable gases in dangerous amounts (minimum amount 1 L/kg/h).
		R 17	Spontaneously flammable in air; substances / preparations that at normal temperatures and on exposure to the atmosphere can heat up without any external source of energy and then combust spontaneously.
Flammable	/	R 10	Liquids / preparations with an FP of at least 21°C and max. 55°C

3. Comparison between the duty to notify and duty to gain approval for handling flammable liquids as per VbF and BetrSichV

Classification	Notifiable as per VbF	Notifiable as per BetrSichV	Approval required as per VbF	Approval required as per BetrSichV
A I	450 bis 1.000 L	-	> 1.000 L	> 10.000 L
A II	3.000 bis 5.000 L	-	> 5.000 L	-
B	3.000 bis 5.000 L	-	-	> 10.000 L

- ✎ Duty to notify no longer applicable.
- ✎ For storage facilities / filling stations with „flammable“ liquids (previously A II) there is no longer the duty to gain approval.
- ✎ Threshold amounts for the duty to gain approval for storage facilities have been raised from 1000 and 5000 L to 10 000 L.

