

DISSERTATION SUMMARY IN ENGLISH

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Dissertation characteristics

Ecological security, which is also referred to as environmental security in view of the need to provide people with the possibility to live in a healthy and clean natural environment, has become a crucial component of national security. This term is defined as a state achieved as a result of taking into account a series of conditions aimed at protecting people as well as the natural environment, and such shaping of natural and social relations in the Earth's biosphere that generates proper living conditions for all humanity, without undermining the foundations of life on Earth, primarily via implementation of the concept of sustainable development.

The spectrum of threats to ecological security is very broad. The most significant ones include: climate change, long-term droughts that generate more and more agricultural losses, progressive chemical pollution of the biosphere, decline of forests and other green areas, degradation of cultivated lands, over-exploitation of ecosystems, soil erosion caused by excessive use of pesticides and mineral fertilisers, human migration, urbanisation, generation of increasing amounts of waste and over-exploitation of natural resources. Furthermore, another important threat to ecological security is the mass transport of people and goods, including dangerous goods.

In view of the above, the purpose of this dissertation was to identify the threats to ecological security in the Republic of Poland resulting from the transport of dangerous goods by road, as well as to propose the methods for minimisation of such threats.

This dissertation consists of an introduction, a methodological chapter, three substantive chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography (list of literature) and three annexes.

The effect of this dissertation is the identification of threats to ecological security of the Republic of Poland caused by dangerous goods during their transport by road, as well as the proposition of procedures for organising such transport in a manner minimising these threats. The dissertation's author put forward the solutions containing:

- a) proposed changes of legal provisions for the benefit of protection of the natural environment during the transport of dangerous goods by road, in regard to: classification of goods posing a threat to the natural environment; documentation accompanying the transport; documentation submitted to the relevant authorities; marking of goods posing a threat to the natural environment, transport of dangerous goods via exemption; regulations on the transport of dangerous goods in pieces of packages and in bulk; regulations on the general and personal protective equipment of drivers as well as other persons involved in the transport of dangerous goods; training of drivers transporting dangerous goods; training of persons carrying out the activities associated with the transport of dangerous goods by road;
- b) proposed organisational directions and methods for the transport of dangerous goods by road, while taking into account the pro-ecological activities regarding: pro-ecological recommendations for organising the transport of dangerous goods by road; methods for improving the planning process of the transport of dangerous goods by road; "good practices" proposed for implementation within the organisational process of the transport of dangerous goods by road;
- c) proposed directions and methods of improvement of the training process intended for drivers and persons involved in the transport of dangerous goods by road, in regard to: recommended subjects and forms of training for drivers and persons carrying out activities associated with the transport of dangerous goods by road, as well as supervision over the training of drivers and persons carrying out activities associated with the transport of dangerous goods by road.

The dissertation ends with a list of literature, which constituted the basis for this study. Furthermore, it includes three annexes that contain interviews with experts, survey results, identification of dangerous goods, which most often result in a threat to the environment during their transport by road, as well as the dissertation summary both in Polish and English.