

# Sealed shipments are safe for WA's lead exports

There has been a lot of interest in Magellan Metals' proposal to export lead concentrate through the Port of Fremantle. This is appropriate because it's important residents know the facts about our sealed shipments, so they can feel secure about the process and how it will work.

The proposed sealed shipments are not bulk shipments. They are tightly sealed bags of concentrate inside steel containers, which are moved under strict conditions, in a process assessed by the EPA as safe. They represent a new global safety standard for transporting lead carbonate concentrate.

The key facts about the proposed shipments are:

- Lead carbonate concentrate packed and sealed in United Nations and State Government approved double-lined bags. The outside of the bags is vacuumed and they are loaded and locked inside steel shipping containers
- Each two tonne bag can withstand pressure six times its own weight
- Rail transport only into the Port of Fremantle
- The bagging, loading and transport process checked by independent accredited auditors at the mine site and the Port
- Environmental, health and safety monitoring with the results publicly available on our website and presented to the Port's public liaison group
- Tough environmental, health and safety, financial and emergency response conditions imposed by the State Government must be met before final approval
- Magellan has been working closely with regulators to satisfy these conditions, and believes this has now been achieved

## Where is the proposal up to?

Magellan has spent the past nine months working to meet a range of tough conditions imposed on the project by the State Government in January 2008. We believe we have now met all the conditions required, all relevant Government agencies have had detailed input and review, and our proposal is back with the State Government for its final decision.

## A quick guide to sealed shipments

The sealed shipment process will establish a new worldwide safety standard for the transport of lead carbonate concentrate that goes well beyond industry best practice for transporting this material.

The key to the new safety standard is the sealing of product and the elimination of any rehandling of material between the mine site and the customer.

## The sealed bags

The two tonne bags that will be used are specifically approved by the United Nations and the State Government for transporting this type of material. They have double-lined walls, comprising a plastic moisture proof internal lining and a tough woven polyester external lining. The double-lining will prevent the escape of moisture so the concentrate in the bags will maintain the consistency and non-dusting characteristics of damp sand. Once filled and sealed, the outside of each bag will be vacuumed to remove any dust on the exterior.



Double-lined two tonne bulk bags will be used in the sealed shipment process

## The locked steel containers

The sealed bags will be placed inside steel shipping containers, which will be locked with uniquely numbered steel bolts that cannot be easily tampered with. The exterior of the containers, and the trucks they are loaded on, will be washed to remove dust before leaving the mine site. Steel containers are the most secure method of transporting goods being both strong and secure. It is worth noting that pictures of a broken container recently distributed in the community are of a unique incident that occurred at sea when a huge storm toppled containers on top of each other. These containers were not damaged by activities related to transport on land. Thousands of containers containing a wide range of goods are safely moved around Western Australia each year by rail, through the Port of Fremantle and internationally by ship.

## The transport route

The containers will be transported by road to Leonora. They will then be railed along the freight line, via Kalgoorlie, to the container terminal at Fremantle Port. Fremantle is the only port in Western Australia with the necessary infrastructure and personnel to ensure safe, efficient and cost effective regular loading of containerised shipments to global markets.

Magellan is working closely with communities and authorities along the route to ensure they have a full understanding of the product, the sealed shipment process and the strict Emergency Response Plan that has been specifically developed for the sealed shipments. The Plan has been produced in consultation with the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA).

In the highly unlikely event of a spill, Magellan's Emergency Response Plan focuses on immediate containment and rapid and complete clean-up.

## The lead concentrate

The lead concentrate is damp (8% moisture) when it is packed within the two tonne bags. The plastic moisture proof internal lining of the bag ensures that the concentrate retains its moisture on the journey. The concentrate has the look and feel of damp grey sand.

## The quantity

Magellan is proposing to use sealed shipments to export up to 150,000 tonnes of lead carbonate concentrate for between seven to 10 years, which is the life of the mine at Wiluna. At full production the mine directly employs approximately 120 people.

## The difference

The shipments are sealed. We learned hard and important lessons at Esperance. Our proposal for Fremantle does not involve transporting bulk ore like most Western Australian minerals exports. They are individual sealed bags of concentrate tightly secured inside steel containers in a process assessed by the EPA as very safe. The process will be subject to strict Ministerial conditions.

Transport of lead carbonate concentrate by Magellan has not resulted in any environmental issues along either road or rail routes and the sealed shipment process will set an even higher safety standard.

Bulk concentrate shipments resulted in dust issues at Esperance and the sealed shipment process eliminates this risk.

## Further information

Detailed information about Magellan and sealed shipments can be seen any time at [www.magellanmetals.com.au](http://www.magellanmetals.com.au) and we are happy to personally answer your questions on **Free Call 1800 428 622**



Hardened steel bolt for containers with unique numbering (image close to actual size)

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