U.S. Department of Transportation

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

DOT CHART 15

Hazardous Materials Markings, Labeling and Placarding Guide

Refer to 49 CFR, Part 172:

- Marking - Subpart D
- Labeling - Subpart E
- Placarding - Subpart F

NOTE: This document is for general guidance only and should not be used to determine compliance with 49 CFR, Parts 100-185.

Hazardous Materials Markings

Package Orientation (Red or Black)

§172.312(a)

Keep Away from Heat

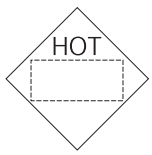
§172.317

§173.25(a)(4)

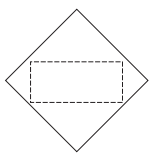
Fumigant Marking (Red or Black)

§172.302(g) and §173.9

§172.313(a)



§172.325



§172.332(a)

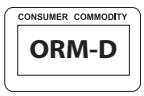
Biological Substances, Category B

§173.199 (a)(5)

Limited Quantity*

§172.315

ORM-D, Transition December 31, 2020

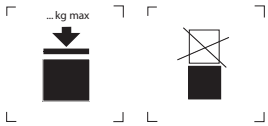


§172.316

Excepted Quantity

§173.4a(g)

Marking of IBCs



§178.703(b)(7)(i)

Marine Pollutant

§172.322

* The new limited quantity marking designates hazardous material packages prepared for air transport (Y) and packages not prepared for air transport (all other modes). The ORM-D classification and the use of packagings marked "Consumer commodity, ORM-D" is authorized until December 31, 2020, for domestic highway, rail, and vessel transportation. Transitional exception—Square-on-point with Identification Number: except for transportation by aircraft and until December 31, 2014, a package containing a limited quantity may be marked with identification number, preceded by the letters "UN" or "NA".

Hazardous Materials Warning Labels

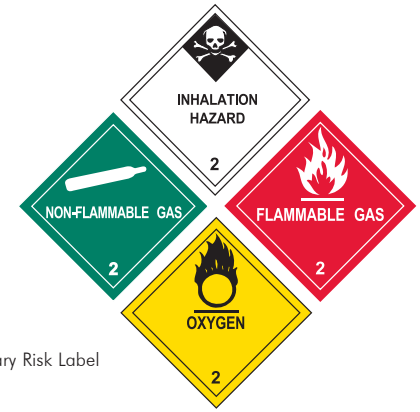
Actual label size: at least 100 mm (3.9 inches) on all sides

CLASS 1 Explosives: Divisions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6

Subsidiary Risk Label

§172.411

CLASS 2 Gases: Divisions 2.1, 2.2, 2.3



§172.405(b), §172.415, §172.416, §172.417

CLASS 3 Flammable Liquid

§172.419

CLASS 4 Flammable Solid, Spontaneously Combustible, and Dangerous When Wet: Divisions 4.1, 4.2, 4.3

§172.420, §172.422, §172.423

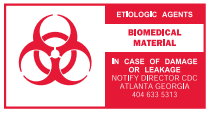
CLASS 5 Oxidizer, Organic Peroxide: Divisions 5.1 and 5.2

§172.426, §172.427

* Include compatibility group letter.

** Include division number and compatibility group letter.

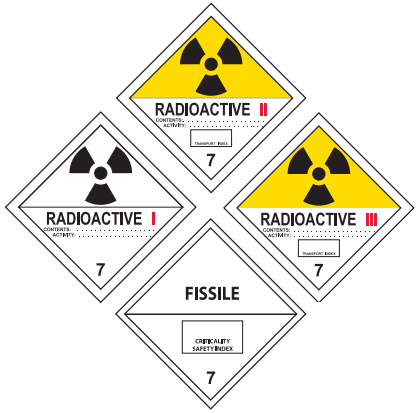
CLASS 6 Poison (Toxic), Poison Inhalation Hazard, Infectious Substance: Divisions 6.1 and 6.2



§172.323, §172.405(c), §172.429, §172.430, §172.432

For Regulated Medical Waste (RMW), an Infectious Substance label is not required on an outer packaging if the OSHA Biohazard marking is used as prescribed in 29 CFR 1910.1030(g). CDC Etiologic Agent label must be used as prescribed in 42 CFR 72.3 and 72.6. A bulk package of RMW must display a BIOHAZARD marking.

CLASS 7 Radioactive

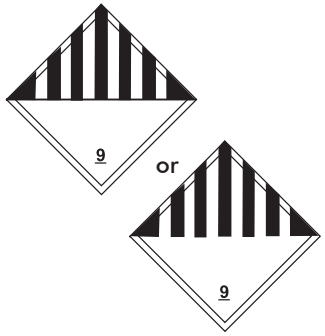


§172.436, §172.438, §172.440, §172.441

CLASS 8 Corrosive

§172.442

CLASS 9 Miscellaneous Hazardous Material



§172.446

Cargo Aircraft Only

§172.448

Empty Label

§172.450

Hazardous Materials Warning Placards

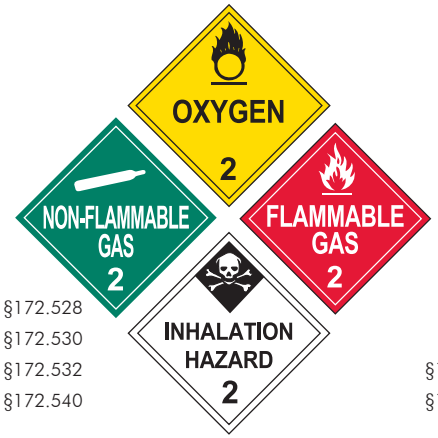
Actual placard size: at least 250 mm (9.84 inches) on all sides

CLASS 1 Explosives

§172.522
§172.523
§172.524
§172.525

* For Divisions 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3, enter division number and compatibility group letter, when required; placard any quantity. For Divisions 1.4, 1.5, and 1.6, enter compatibility group letter, when required; placard 454 kg (1,001 lbs) or more.

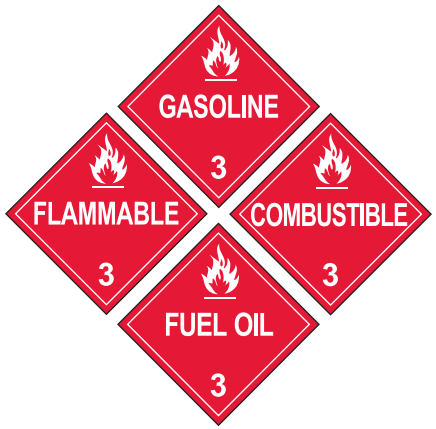
CLASS 2 Gases



§172.528
§172.530
§172.532
§172.540

For NON-FLAMMABLE GAS, OXYGEN (compressed gas or refrigerated liquid), and FLAMMABLE GAS, placard 454 kg (1,001 lbs) or more gross weight. For POISON GAS (Division 2.3), placard any quantity.

CLASS 3 Flammable Liquid and Combustible Liquid



§172.542
§172.544

For FLAMMABLE, placard 454 kg (1,001 lbs) or more. GASOLINE may be used in place of FLAMMABLE placard displayed on a cargo tank or portable tank transporting gasoline by highway. Placard combustible liquid transported in bulk. See §172.504(f)(2) for use of FLAMMABLE placard in place of COMBUSTIBLE. FUEL OIL may be used in place of COMBUSTIBLE on a cargo or portable tank transporting fuel oil not classed as a flammable liquid by highway.

CLASS 4 Flammable Solid, Spontaneously Combustible, and Dangerous When Wet

§172.546, §172.547, §172.548

For FLAMMABLE SOLID and SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTIBLE, placard 454 kg (1,001 lbs) or more. For DANGEROUS WHEN WET (Division 4.3), placard any quantity.

CLASS 5 Oxidizer & Organic Peroxide

Organic Peroxide, Transition-2011 (rail, vessel, and aircraft) 2014 (highway)

§172.550, §172.552

For OXIDIZER and ORGANIC PEROXIDE (other than TYPE B, temperature controlled), placard 454 kg (1,001 lbs) or more. For ORGANIC PEROXIDE (Division 5.2), Type B, temperature controlled, placard any quantity.

CLASS 6 Poison (Toxic) and Poison Inhalation Hazard

§172.504(f)(10), §172.554, §172.555

For POISON (PGI or PGII, other than inhalation hazard) and POISON (PGIII), placard 454 kg (1,001 lbs) or more. For POISON-INHALATION HAZARD (Division 6.1), inhalation hazard only, placard any quantity.

CLASS 7 Radioactive

§172.556

Placard any quantity - packages bearing RADIOACTIVE YELLOW-III labels only. Certain low specific activity radioactive materials in "exclusive use" will not bear the label, but the radioactive placard is required for exclusive use shipments of low specific activity material and surface contaminated objects transported in accordance with §172.504(e) Table 1 and §173.427(a)(6).

CLASS 8 Corrosive

§172.558

For CORROSIVE, placard 454 kg (1,001 lbs) or more.

CLASS 9 Miscellaneous

§172.560

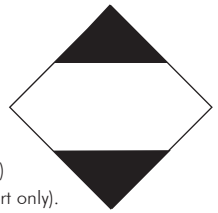
Not required for domestic transportation. A bulk packaging containing a Class 9 material must be marked with the appropriate ID number displayed on a Class 9 placard, an orange panel, or a white square-on-point display.

Dangerous

§172.521

A freight container, unit load device, transport vehicle, or rail car which contains non-bulk packages with two or more categories of hazardous materials that require different placards specified in Table 2 §172.504(e) may be placarded with DANGEROUS placards instead of the specific placards required for each of the materials in Table 2. However, when 1,000 kg (2,205 lbs) or more of one category of material is loaded at one loading facility, the placard specified in Table 2 must be applied.

Limited Quantity Marking



§172.315(a)(2)
(Vessel transport only).

Safety begins with communication!

General Guidelines on Use of Warning Labels and Placards

LABELS

See 49 CFR, Part 172, Subpart E, for complete labeling regulations.

- The Hazardous Materials Table [§172.101, Col. 6] identifies the proper label(s) for the hazardous material listed.
- Any person who offers a hazardous material for transportation MUST label the package, if required [§172.400(a)].
- Labels may be affixed to packages when not required by regulations, provided each label represents a hazard of the material contained in the package [§172.401].
- For labeling mixed or consolidated packages, see §172.404.
- The appropriate hazard class or division number must be displayed in the lower corner of a primary and subsidiary hazard label [§172.402(b)].
- For classes 1,2,3,4,5,6, and 8, text indicating a hazard (e.g., "CORROSIVE") is NOT required on a primary or subsidiary label. The label must otherwise conform to Subpart E of Part 172 [§172.405].
- Labels must be printed on or affixed to the surface of the package near the proper shipping name marking [§172.406(a)].
- When primary and subsidiary labels are required, they must be displayed next to each other [§172.406(c)].
- For a package containing a Division 6.1, PG III material, the POISON label specified in §172.430 may be modified to display the text PG III instead of POISON or TOXIC. Also see §172.405(c).
- The ORGANIC PEROXIDE label [§172.427] indicates that organic peroxides are highly flammable. Use of the ORGANIC PEROXIDE label eliminates the need for a flammable liquid subsidiary label. The color of the border must be black and the color of the flame may be black or white.

PLACARDS

See 49 CFR, Part 172, Subpart F, for complete placarding regulations.

- Each person who offers for transportation or transports any hazardous material subject to the Hazardous Materials Regulations must comply with all applicable requirements of Subpart F [§172.500].
- Placards may be displayed for a hazardous material, even when not required, if the placarding otherwise conforms to the requirements of Subpart F of Part 172 [§172.502(c)].
- For other than Class 7 or the DANGEROUS placard, text indicating a hazard (e.g., "FLAMMABLE") is not required. Text may be omitted from the OXYGEN placard only if the specific ID number is displayed on the placard [§172.519(b)(3)].
- For a placard corresponding to the primary or subsidiary hazard class of a material, the hazard class or division number must be displayed in the lower corner of the placard [§172.519(b)(4)].
- Except as otherwise provided, any bulk packaging, freight container, unit load device, transport vehicle or rail car containing any quantity of material listed in Table 1 must be placarded [§172.504].
- When the aggregate gross weight of all hazardous materials in non-bulk packages covered in Table 2 is less than 454 kg (1,001 lbs), no placard is required on a transport vehicle or freight container when transported by highway or rail [§172.504(c)].
- Notes: See §172.504(f)(10) for placarding Division 6.1, PG III materials.
- Placarded loads require registration with USDOT. See §107.601 for registration regulations.
- The new ORGANIC PEROXIDE placard became mandatory 1 January 2011 for transportation by rail, vessel, or aircraft and becomes mandatory 1 January 2014 for transportation by highway. The placard will enable transport workers to readily distinguish peroxides from oxidizers [§172.552].

Placarding Tables

[§172.504(e)]

TABLE 1

Category of material (Hazard Class or division number and additional description, as appropriate)	Placard name
1.1	EXPLOSIVES 1.1
1.2	EXPLOSIVES 1.2
1.3	EXPLOSIVES 1.3
2.3	POISON GAS
4.3	DANGEROUS WHEN WET
5.2 (Organic peroxide, Type B, liquid or solid, temperature controlled)	ORGANIC PEROXIDE
6.1 (Materials poisonous by inhalation (see §171.8))	POISON INHALATION HAZARD
7 (Radioactive Yellow III label only)	RADIOACTIVE[1]

[1] RADIOACTIVE placard also required for exclusive use shipments of low specific activity material and surface contaminated objects transported in accordance with §173.427(b)(4) and (5) or (c) of the subchapter.

TABLE 2

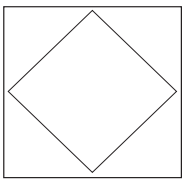
Category of material (Hazard Class or division number and additional description, as appropriate)	Placard name
1.4	EXPLOSIVES 1.4
1.5	EXPLOSIVES 1.5
1.6	EXPLOSIVES 1.6
2.1	FLAMMABLE GAS
2.3	NON-FLAMMABLE GAS
3	FLAMMABLE
Combustible Liquid	COMBUSTIBLE
4.1	FLAMMABLE SOLID
4.2	SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTIBLE
5.1	OXIDIZER
5.2 (Other than organic peroxide, Type B, liquid or solid, temperature controlled)	ORGANIC PEROXIDE
6.1 (Other than materials poisonous by inhalation)	POISON
6.2	(None)
8	CORROSIVE
9	Class 9 (See §172.504(f)(9))
ORM-D	(None)

Identification Number Displays

§172.332

Appropriate placard must be used with orange panel.

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER MARKINGS ON ORANGE PANELS OR APPROPRIATE PLACARDS MUST BE DISPLAYED ON: (1) Tank Cars, Cargo Tanks, Portable Tanks, and other Bulk Packagings; (2) Transport vehicles or freight containers containing 4,000 kg (8,820 lbs) in non-bulk packages of only a single hazardous material having the same proper shipping name and identification number loaded at one facility and transport vehicle contains no other material, hazardous or otherwise; and (3) transport vehicles or freight containers containing 1,000 kg (2,205 lbs) of non-bulk packages of materials poisonous by inhalation in Hazard Zone A or B. See §§172.301(a)(3), 172.313(c), 172.326, 172.328,172.330, and 172.331.



§172.527

Square white background required for placard for highway route controlled quantity radioactive material and for rail shipment of certain explosives and poisons, and for flammable gas in a DOT 113 tank car (§172.507 and §172.510).

This Chart is available online at the following link:
http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat

U.S. Department of Transportation

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

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