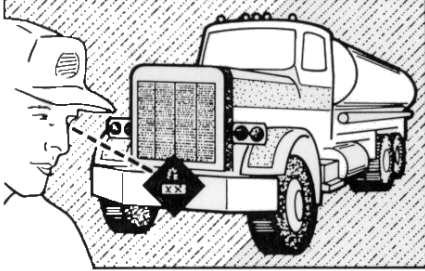


# HAULING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

## Understanding the Basics



Drivers are responsible for checking hazardous materials placards during trip and replacing them if necessary.

Hazardous materials pose a risk to safety, health and property during transportation. Many hazardous materials can injure or kill on contact.

To protect drivers and others there are rules and regulations governing the transportation of hazardous materials. The primary goal of these regulations is safety.

### Who Regulates HazMat Transportation?

The Hazardous Materials Transportation Act of 1974 pertains to the transportation of hazardous materials by highway, air, rail and water. It mandated rules dealing with shipping papers, package labels, placards and accident procedures. These rules, which are in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, are administered by the Department of Transportation.

In 1976 the federal government consolidated all regulations covering hazardous materials transportation. All carriers that haul hazardous materials across state lines are subject to the Federal Hazardous Materials

Regulations and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

Many states have adopted the federal HazMat rules for intrastate transportation. Some also have additional restrictions on HazMat shipments.

### Drivers' Responsibilities

Get to know the major categories of hazardous materials and how to identify a HazMat shipment. The shipping papers and package labels should alert you to the presence of hazardous materials.

If you are hauling hazardous materials, your vehicle must be marked by diamond-shaped placards identifying the hazard class. Do not move a vehicle containing a HazMat shipment unless it is properly placarded.

In general, placards must be provided by the shipper and applied by the carrier. The driver is responsible for checking the placards during a trip and replacing them when necessary.

### On The Road

Be aware that you may encounter route restrictions when hauling hazardous materials. Explosive carriers must have a written route plan before a shipment can move.

When you are refueling a vehicle carrying hazardous materials, you must turn off your engine. There must be an attendant at the fuel tank during the entire refueling process.

If your vehicle has dual tires on any axle, you must stop every two hours or every 100 miles to inspect the tires. Tires must also be inspected when you park the vehicle.

### Rules for Safety

HazMat transport can be dangerous. To protect yourself and others, make sure you know and follow the rules governing hazardous materials shipments.

### Driver Checklist

- Familiarize yourself with the required documents, packaging, labeling and compatibility of hazardous materials.
- Inspect all HazMat shipments before they are loaded.
- Do not accept a HazMat shipment if the shipping papers are not filled out properly or if there are leaking or damaged containers.
- Make sure your vehicle has the appropriate placards in the specified locations.
- Double check that your HazMat shipping papers are in order. They should be on top of other paperwork or tabbed for easy reference.