

HAZMAT PLACARDS

Your On-The-Road Guide

Placards alert persons to the potential dangers of hazardous materials in a motor vehicle, rail car, freight container, cargo, tank or portable tank. They also guide emergency personnel in their response to accidents involving hazardous materials.

Placarding Responsibility

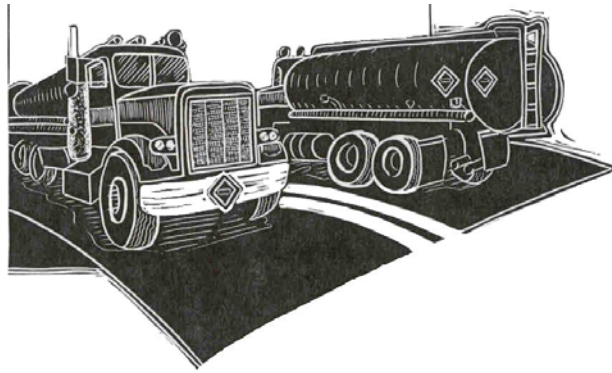
In general, the shipper is responsible for providing the appropriate placards for a shipment of hazardous materials and the driver is responsible for replacing placards that become lost or damaged during a trip.

Drivers should not move vehicles that are not properly placarded unless:

- The vehicle is escorted by a state or local government representative;
- The carrier has received DOT permission; or
- Movement of the vehicle is necessary to protect life and property.

Placard Specifications

Placards follow size, color and design specifications for easy identification of hazardous materials. They are basically enlarged HazMat labels. They can be plastic, metal or other materials that meets or exceeds "tagboard" durability specifications. They must be treated with plastics or other waterproofing material to withstand open weather exposure (including rain) for 30 days without a substantial reduction in effectiveness.



Placards must be displayed on each end and each side of the vehicle trailer or cargo carrier.

Placarding requirements must be met when transporting:

- Explosives
- Compressed gases
- Flammable gases
- Non-flammable gases
- Poison liquids
- Flammable liquids
- Flammable solids
- Combustible liquids
- Organics peroxides
- Poisons
- Irritating materials
- Corrosive materials

Placard Placement

Placards must be displayed on each end and each side of the vehicle, trailer or cargo carrier.

The front placard may be on the front of the tractor or the cargo body, but it must be visible from the front.

Placards must match the hazard of the cargo and be removed from any vehicle not carrying hazardous materials.

Placards must be securely attached to the vehicle or placed in a placard holder.

Placards must be at least 3 inches from any other markings on the vehicle.

Words on the placard must read horizontally.

Placards must be clearly visible and maintained throughout the trip.

When Are They Needed?

The Department of Transportation has established categories of hazardous materials requiring placards.

Placarding requirements do not apply to these hazardous materials:

- Etiologic agents
- ORM-A, ORM-B, ORM-c or
- ORM-D materials
- Materials authorized for transport in "limited quantities" when properly identified on the shipping papers.

Placards Spread the Word

Placards communicate the risks of your hazardous materials shipment. They must be visible from all sides of your vehicle at all times.