



Choosing and Offering Placards

MODULE 6





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Introduction

Most of the requirements of the Hazardous Material Regulations (HMR) are to ensure the first responder, transporters and handlers know the nature of the materials involved. An important identifier is the placard on the truck, car or other vehicle that transports the hazardous materials — ensuring the hazards can be identified even at a distance.



Placards

Placards are the large, diamond-shaped hazard class signs that you see on the outside of trucks and other transportation vehicles. Most of the placards are the same as the colored hazard class symbols we reviewed in module 2. There are placards for each of the nine hazard classes. The correct placard is the one that represents the primary hazard class of the hazardous material. Remember, the hazard class can be found in column (3) of the Hazardous Materials Table (see below). If there's a subsidiary class, it will be listed in column (6).

Hazardous Materials Table (49 CFR 172.101)									
Symbols (1)	Hazardous Materials Descriptions and Proper Shipping Name (2)	Hazard Class or Division (3)	Identification Numbers (4)	PG (5)	Label Codes (6)	Special Provisions (7)	Packaging §173.***		
							Ex-ceptions (8A)	Non-bulk (8B)	Bulk (8C)
G	Corrosive liquids, n.o.s.	8	UN1760	III	8	IB3, T7, TP1, TP28	154	203	241
G	Corrosive liquid, acidic, organic, n.o.s.	8	UN3265	III	8	IB3, T7, TP1, TP28	154	203	241
G	Environmentally hazardous substances, liquid, n.o.s.	9	UN3082	III	9	8, 146, IB3, T4, TP1, TP29	155	203	241
R4	Potassium hydroxide, solution	8	UN1814	II	8	B2, IB2, T7, TP2	154	203	241
	Printing ink	3	UN1210	III	3	B1, IB3, T2, TP1	150	173	242

Offering Placards

The shipper is responsible for offering the correct placards to the transporter. For example, if you're shipping a class 8 corrosive bleach-fix, you must offer the driver four class 8 placards — one for each side of the vehicle. The shipper is NOT responsible for what



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may already be on the truck. For example, if you're shipping a corrosive liquid, class 8, AND the driver already has a flammable liquid, class 3, you are only responsible for offering class 8 placards. The driver is responsible for affixing the placards to the vehicle.

Exceptions to Placarding

Not all shipments require placarding. The following list of exceptions from placarding includes only those that would typically apply to imaging labs:

- Limited quantities (e.g., Many photochemicals are supplied in small packages that qualify for the limited quantity exception.)
- Class ORM-D (e.g., Many inkjet inks will be shipped in cartridges that meet the requirements for ORM-D Consumer Commodity.)
- Combustible liquids (i.e., Any liquid with a flash point greater than 60.5°C (141°F) and less than 93°C (200°F). Many inkjet inks are combustible liquids.)
- Class 9, domestic by highway (e.g., Waste photochemicals containing silver are classified as Waste Environmentally Hazardous Substances, liquid, n.o.s., (silver), class 9, UN3082, PGIII.)
- Small quantities (e.g., Samples of chemicals shipped for analysis may not require placarding if they are less than 30 mls.)
- Gross weight of total load (aggregate load) of hazardous materials is less than 454 kg (1,001 pounds) (e.g., When an employee uses a personal vehicle to carry hazardous materials from one lab to another, the load would never exceed 454 kg, and therefore, not require placarding.)

Requirements for Placarding

When placards are not excepted, they must meet the following requirements:

- Be securely fastened, in the diamond (not square) position
- Be visible from all four sides of a vehicle (front, back and both sides)



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- Be removed when they no longer apply (e.g., the truck is empty or the load represented by that placard has been delivered)
- Meet specifications for color, size, design and durability

Dangerous Placard

When you see the *Dangerous* placard on a transport vehicle, you know there is more than one hazard class of material on-board. As long as the hazardous materials are in the following classes, the Dangerous placard can be used instead of individual placards for each hazard class:

- Class 2.1, 2.2 - flammable and non-flammable gas (e.g., cylinders of nitrogen or oxygen and acetylene for welding)
- Class 3 - flammable liquids (e.g., inkjet ink and printhead cleaners, film cleaner)
- Class 8 - corrosive (e.g., color paper bleach-fix, film bleach)



Summary

Placards alert emergency response personnel to the primary hazards of the materials contained in a transport vehicle. Each of the four sides of a vehicle must be placarded, with the placards on point (diamond-shape), securely fastened, and visible. The shipper is responsible for offering the driver the placards, while the driver is responsible for affixing them to the vehicle. There are several exceptions to placarding, including limited quantity and ORM-D materials. Since many of the photochemicals and inkjet inks used by imaging labs are shipped as limited quantity or consumer commodity, you may not see placards on the vehicles that deliver your chemicals, or be required to offer placards if you are the shipper.

Test your understanding of this section by answering the self-quiz questions on the next page.

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Self Quiz Questions

1. Who is responsible to provide placards for a transport vehicle?
 - a) shipper
 - b) receiver
 - c) transporter
 - d) CHEMTREC
2. A DANGEROUS placard signifies:
 - a) explosives on board
 - b) transport cannot plan a route through populated areas
 - c) mixed load of hazardous materials
 - d) The load is all palletized hazardous materials
3. How many placards are required for a vehicle loaded with Class 8 materials?
 - a) 1
 - b) 2
 - c) 3
 - d) 4
4. Limited quantity materials, in large amounts, require placards.
 - a) True
 - b) False
5. Placards help ensure hazardous materials can be identified at a distance.
 - a) True
 - b) False
6. A shipment of corrosive hazardous materials weighing 875 lbs requires a corrosive placard.
 - a) True
 - b) False