

HAZMAT INCIDENTS

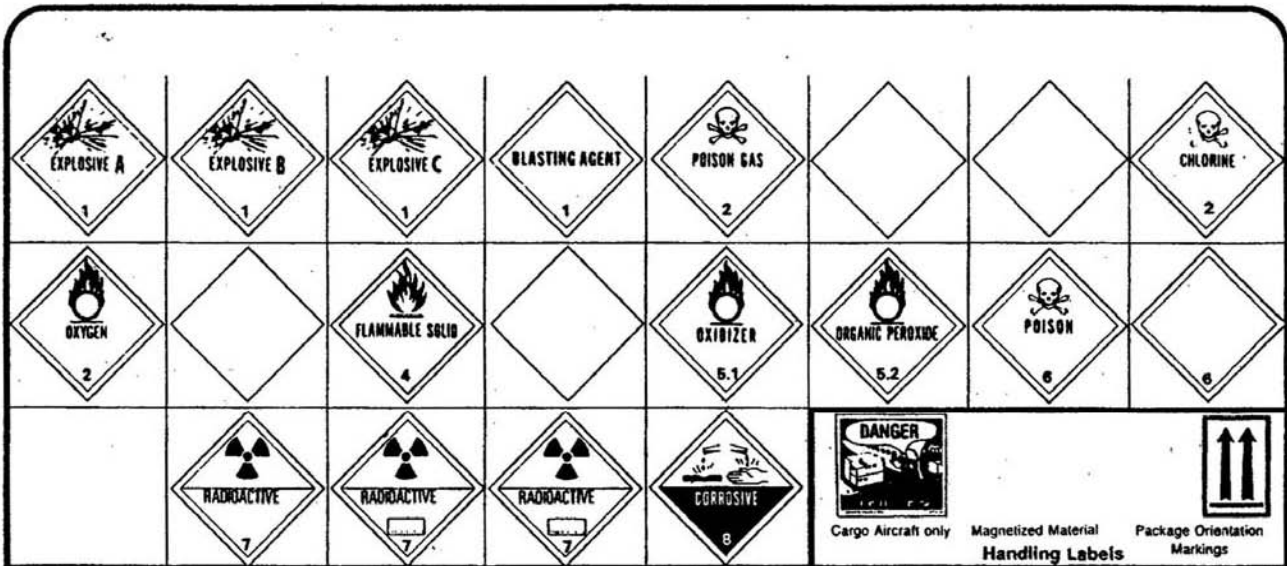
The term “hazardous materials” (HAZMAT) refers to any substances or materials which, if released in an uncontrolled manner (e.g., spilled), can be harmful to people, animals, crops, water systems, or other elements of the environment. The list is long and includes explosives, gases, flammable and combustible liquids, flammable solids or substances, oxidizing substances, poisonous and infectious substances, radioactive materials, and corrosives.

One of the major problems is to determine what the chemicals are, where and in what quantities. Various organizations in the U.S. have established or defined classes or lists of hazardous materials for regulatory purposes or for the purpose of providing rapid indication of the hazards associated with individual substances. As the primary regulatory agency concerned with the safe transportation of such materials in interstate commerce, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has established placarding and marking requirements for containers and packages, and adopted an international cargo commodity numbering system.

The DOT requires that all freight containers, trucks and rail cars transporting these materials display placards identifying the hazard class or classes of the materials they are carrying. The placards are diamond-shaped, 10-inches on a side, color-coded and show an icon or graphic symbol depicting the hazard class. They are displayed on the ends and sides of transport vehicles. A four-digit identification number may be displayed on the placard or on an adjacent rectangular orange panel.

HAZMAT INCIDENT GUIDELINES

- Approach the scene cautiously – from uphill and upwind. If you have binoculars, use them!
- Try to identify the material by any one of the following:
 1. The four-digit number on a placard or orange panel.
 2. The four-digit number (preceded by the initials “UN/NA”) on a shipping paper or package.
 3. The name of the material on the shipping paper, placard or package.
- Call for help immediately and let the experts handle the situation. **DO NOT** attempt to take any action beyond your level of training. Know what you are capable of doing.



General Guidelines on Use of Labels

- Labels illustrated above are normally for domestic shipments. However, some air carriers may require the use of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) labels.
- Domestic Warning Labels may display UN Class Number, Division Number (and Compatibility Group for Explosives only.) Sec. 172.407(g).
- Any person who offers a hazardous material for transportation MUST label the package, if required. [Sec. 172.400(a)].
- The Hazardous Materials Tables, Sec. 172.101 and 172.102, identify the proper label(s) for the hazardous materials listed.
- Label(s), when required, must be printed on or affixed to the surface of the package near the proper shipping name. [Sec. 172.406(a)].
- When two or more different labels are required, display them next to each other. [Sec. 172.406(c)].
- Labels may be affixed to packages (even when not required by regulations) provided each label represents a hazard of the material in the package. [Sec. 172-401].

UN Class Numbers

- Class 1—Explosives
- Class 2—Gases (compressed, liquified or dissolved under pressure)
- Class 3—Flammable liquids
- Class 4—Flammable solids or substances
- Class 5—Oxidizing substances
 - Division 5.1—Oxidizing substances or agents.
 - Division 5.2—Organic peroxides.
- Class 6—Poisonous and infectious substances
- Class 7—Radioactive substances
- Class 8—Corrosives
- Class 9—Miscellaneous dangerous substances

Substance liable to Spontaneous Combustion Poisonous Substance Poisonous Substance Infectious Substance

EXAMPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LABELS

- These are examples of International Labels not presently used for domestic shipments.
- Text, when used Internationally may be in the language of the country of origin.

EXAMPLES OF EXPLOSIVE LABELS

- The NUMERICAL DESIGNATION represents the CLASS or DIVISION.
- ALPHABETICAL DESIGNATION represents the COMPATIBILITY GROUP (for Explosives Only)
- DIVISION NUMBERS and COMPATIBILITY GROUP combinations can result in over 30 different "Explosives" labels (see IMDG Code/ICAO).

- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Transportation, Parts 100-199. [All Modes]
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by air. [Air]
- International Maritime Organization (IMO) Dangerous Goods Code. [Water]
- "Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations" of Transport Canada. [All Modes]

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