



Hazmat FAQ's


1. If I have a placardable amount of one Table 2 item on a trailer, can't I just put a Dangerous placard on it?

Answer – No.

A Dangerous placard can only be used when you have two or more non-bulk Table 2 items (CFR 49 172. 504)

2. I need to have UN numbers for a bulk package on my trailer, can I handwrite these numbers?

Answer – No.

ID numbers on an orange panel  must be 3.9 inch black Helvetica Medium script CFR 49 172.332(b)(1)

Or 3.5 inch black Alpine Gothic or Alternate Gothic No. 3 on an inset placard



CFR 49 172.332(c)(1).

However, if the numbers are lost, damaged or destroyed during transportation, you may replace them as soon as practicable and they may then be handwritten with an indelible marking material CFR 49 172.338.

3. I am taking a load placarded with Flammable 3 on my rear pup, can I smoke while driving?

Answer – No.

Although you are more than 25 feet from the rear pup, the regulation states that no person ON or within 25 feet of a placarded CMV may smoke when it is placarded for any class 1, 2.1, 3, 4.1, 4.2 or 5 (FMCSR 397.13)



I have a trailer loaded with class 3 flammable and class 8 corrosive, but do not have enough weight to require placards. Do I have to stop between 15 and 50 feet of a railroad crossing?

Answer – No.

FMCSR 392.10 states that any CMV required to be placarded must stop. In fact the classifications listed in 392.10(a)(3) for placards do not include 4.2 and 1.6, so technically if you are placarded with those, you may merely proceed across slowly enough to stop if necessary before reaching the first rail (FMCSR 392.11) without stopping.

5. If I am caught in a situation where I cannot get to my terminal with a placarded load, can I park my unit at a hotel to get my required rest?

Answer – Yes.

Vehicles placarded with radioactive or 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 explosives are not allowed to do this; they must be parked in a safe haven. However, other placarded vehicles may deviate their route which normally avoids heavily populated areas, crowds, tunnels or narrow streets/allies if necessary to reach facilities for food, fuel, repairs, or **rest** (FMCSR 397.67(b)(2)).

6. Do hazmat regulations change often, and how do I find out about them?

Answer – Yes.

Hazmat regulations do change quite regularly and it is difficult to keep up with them if you do not have a source for getting updates. The Federal Register comes out with new changes on a regular basis and can be found online. For example, the recent change to regulations regarding black powder and smokeless powder have again been updated. 81 FR (Federal Register) 35483 has made a change that allows 100 pounds of 4.1 black/smokeless powder to be carried per “transport” vehicle (trailer) rather than per “motor” vehicle (a set of doubles or triples).