



Glen Brannon <2trailertrucker@gmail.com>

Hazardous Material Special Exemption Questions

Glen Brannon <2trailertrucker@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 1:23 PM

To: Jamie.Haines

Good afternoon Mr. Haines:

My name is Glen Brannon. I am a YRC Freight line haul driver domiciled at 324/Indianapolis. I am also the webmaster of 2trailertrucker.com, an information based website for YRC Freight drivers and supervisors.

My email is in regard to the DOT SP-xxx codes found on BOL's. As I have been trained in the past, such loads, while having placard-able quantities of hazardous material, do not need to be placarded for transport. Recently, I have come upon haz-mat that have been labeled at DOT-SPxxxx, however, the trailers have been placarded. On one occasion, the trailer had multiple hazmat bills with the DOT-SP, and the trailer was placarded as if it did not.

When I asked the line haul supervisors about this, they either do not know, or have a very limited knowledge about it.

My questions are:

- 1) Can you please explain the process of a hazmat shipment obtaining and/or qualifying for a DOT-SP?
- 2) Are all loads labeled with DOT-SP code exempt from placarding? If there are exceptions, could you please clarify?
- 3) When hauling exempted shipments, are the drivers to be routed on hazmat routes, as well as, when checked by DOT, to declare that they are hauling hazardous materials?
- 4) If a load is exempted, and the trailer is placarded, can this be a violation, as in having an empty trailer with placards?
- 5) Is there a specific format in to which the code must be written? I have seen consistently, a hazmat shipment with "DOT-SP8", while other codes are "DOT-SPxxxxx (4-6 numbers preceding the SP).

I would like to post your reply on my website. As you will see when visiting it, it is a 100% information-based site. No opinions are posted. It has visitors from all over the USA, with an average of 2000-3000 page views per month. This information can and will be a useful tool for drivers and supervisors alike to make sure that we all are on the same page regarding one of the most regulated and stressful shipments YRC Freight hauls daily.

I look forward to your reply:

Glen Brannon



Glen Brannon <2trailertrucker@gmail.com>

Hazardous Material Special Exemption Questions

Haines, Jamie

Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 2:30 PM

To: Glen Brannon <2trailertrucker@gmail.com>

Hello Mr. Brannon.

You pose excellent questions regarding the "DOT-SP's" commonly seen on our hazmat papers and I will do my best to clearly answer your questions.

Shippers of hazardous materials may apply to the Associate Administrator of the D.O.T. for a DOT Special Permit (SP) to relieve them from certain requirements. There are literally thousands of exemptions, identified as DOT-SP##### and range from 3-digits to 5-digits. The exemptions cover different requirements from how to package hazardous materials to labeling requirements. It is not correct that all DOT-SP's exempt a carrier from placarding requirements. A commonly encountered DOT-SP (7891) exempts the shipper from labeling the package and therefore segregation and placarding. However, this is merely one DOT-SP of thousands. They each have different individual exceptions. The rules/requirements from which the shipper or transporter are relieved are outlined within the verbiage of the special permit.

When placarding is not required, it is **not** expressly forbidden. Under permissive placarding rules, regulations allow placarding when any amount of hazardous material for which placards are applied are located on the motor vehicle, in this case.

I hope this clears up the confusion regarding special permits and explains why sometimes placards are not used and other times no noticeable impact to the driver is experienced (packaging relief for cylinders of hazmat). As always, our drivers, internal and external customers are always encouraged to call the YRC Chemical Helpline for clarification on these permits as well as general hazmat shipping questions. That number, also listed below within my signature, is (800) 395-5446 option 2.

Jamie Haines

Safety Coordinator II, YRC Enterprise Services, Inc.