

Nine DOT Hazard Classes, Quick Reference Card

Wallet-card companion for hazmat employees

Per 49 CFR Part 173 Subparts D, E, F, G, H, I · Placarding under Part 172 Subpart F

How to use this card. This is a memory aid for the nine hazard classes you saw in your General Awareness training (Module 1 of the Core Bundle). Print double-sided and laminate. Carry it in the cab, dispatch office, or warehouse. It does NOT substitute for shipping papers, the §172.101 Hazardous Materials Table, the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook, or your function-specific training.

The nine classes at a glance

#	Class name	Divisions	Common examples
1	Explosives	1.1 Mass explosion · 1.2 Projection · 1.3 Mass fire · 1.4 Minor hazard · 1.5 Insensitive · 1.6 Extremely insensitive	Dynamite, blasting caps, fireworks, ammunition, airbag inflators, propellant
2	Gases	2.1 Flammable gas · 2.2 Non-flammable, non-toxic · 2.3 Toxic gas (PIH)	Propane (2.1), nitrogen (2.2), oxygen (2.2 oxidizer), chlorine (2.3 PIH)
3	Flammable Liquids	FP ≤ 60°C / 140°F (combustible liquids: FP 60 to 93°C)	Gasoline, diesel, ethanol, paint thinner, acetone
4	Flammable Solids	4.1 Flammable solid · 4.2 Spontaneously combustible · 4.3 Dangerous when wet	Matches (4.1), white phosphorus (4.2), calcium carbide (4.3)
5	Oxidizers &*** Organic Peroxides**	5.1 Oxidizer · 5.2 Organic peroxide	Ammonium nitrate (5.1), hydrogen peroxide (5.1), MEKP (5.2)
6	Toxic &*** Infectious**	6.1 Toxic substances · 6.2 Infectious substances	Pesticides (6.1), arsenic compounds (6.1), Category A/B infectious (6.2)
7	Radioactive	Radioactive material categories I-White, II-Yellow, III-Yellow;	Medical isotopes, industrial radiography sources,

#	Class name	Divisions	Common examples
8	Corrosives	HRCQ at §173.403 Acids and bases that destroy human skin tissue or corrode steel/aluminum at specified rates	spent fuel Sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid, battery acid
9	Miscellaneous	Anything regulated but not in classes 1 to 8, including lithium batteries, dry ice, marine pollutants, elevated-temperature material	Lithium batteries (UN3480/3481), dry ice (UN1845), molten sulfur, environmentally hazardous substance

Key terms: at a glance

Hazmat employee (§171.8). Anyone who handles, packages, prepares, transports, loads, unloads, drives, or supervises any of these for a material covered by the HMR. Goes far beyond drivers.

Hazardous Materials Table (§172.101). The master lookup. Columns include UN/NA ID number, proper shipping name, class/division, packing group, label codes, special provisions, packaging sections, quantity limits, and stowage codes.

Five-element basic description on shipping papers (§172.202). (1) Identification number; (2) Proper shipping name; (3) Hazard class or division; (4) Packing group (where applicable); (5) Quantity.

Placarding (§172.504). Table 1 materials: placard for ANY amount. Table 2 materials: placard if aggregate gross weight $\geq$ 1,001 lb. The DANGEROUS placard rule applies to mixed loads under certain conditions; check §172.504(b).

Reportable Quantity (RQ). Per Appendix A to §172.101. If a release equals or exceeds RQ, the carrier triggers EPA notification in addition to the §171.15 immediate-notice requirements.

Marine Pollutant. Per Appendix B to §172.101. Triggers marking and (for bulk) placarding requirements.

Emergency contacts (program these in your phone)

Resource	Number	When to call
CHEMTREC (24-hour emergency)	1-800-424-9300	Hazmat incident with release, spill, fire, exposure, or transport accident

Resource	Number	When to call
National Response Center (NRC)	1-800-424-8802	\$171.15 immediate-notice triggers, death, hospitalization, \$500+ damage, evacuation, etc.
PHMSA Information Center	1-800-467-4922	Regulatory questions, training questions, registration questions (NOT emergencies)
DOT Security Tips	1-855-DOT-SAFT	Security threats, suspicious activity, hazmat-related security concerns
Local 911 + nearest emergency services	911	Life-safety threats first. Always 911 before any other notification.

Disclaimer. *This document is provided as a compliance aid for customers of DotMotusCompliance Inc. It is not legal advice and does not certify compliance with any federal, state, or local regulation. The hazmat employer or motor carrier is the legally responsible party for compliance and recordkeeping. Always verify the current text of any cited regulation against the eCFR before relying on it. Hazard class definitions, placarding, and emergency response references are current to the eCFR as of May 2026 and the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook. This card is a memory aid, always defer to the shipping papers, the ERG, the \$172.101 Table, and your function-specific training.*

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