HazMat Endorsement Cheat Sheet

Study Section 9 of the commercial driver handbook. Use the manual for your state to prepare for its tests.

Read the shipping description in order

Look for the identification number, proper shipping name, hazard class or division, and packing group when assigned. Check the shipping paper for any additional information required for the shipment. 49 CFR 172.202

Work out which placards are required

Start with the material's placarding table, the type of packaging and the gross weight. Table 1 usually requires placards for any amount. The Table 2 exception for less than 1,001 pounds has limits, including for bulk packages. 49 CFR 172.504

Check your first-time endorsement steps

Complete the required hazardous materials theory training before your state knowledge test. Follow your state and TSA instructions for applying for the security threat assessment. FMCSA entry-level training

Quick review

Cover the answers as you review, or take the interactive practice test.

1. Who is responsible for providing the proper diamond-shaped hazardous materials placards for a shipment?

Answer: The shipper offering the hazardous materials for transport

The shipper must provide the required placards and proper shipping papers, while the driver/carrier must verify and affix the placards on all four sides of the vehicle before moving it. 49 CFR §172.506(a)

2. In what sequence must the basic description of a hazardous material appear on shipping papers (the ISHP rule)?

Answer: Identification number, Proper shipping name, Hazard class, Packing group

49 CFR §172.202 requires the exact sequence: (1) ID number (e.g., UN1203), (2) Proper shipping name (Gasoline), (3) Hazard class (3), and (4) Packing group (PG II). 49 CFR §172.202(a)–(b)

3. When a HazMat vehicle is required to stop at a railroad crossing under federal rules, how far from the nearest rail should it stop?

Answer: Between 15 and 50 feet before the nearest rail

Placarded HazMat vehicles (and buses) must stop 15 to 50 feet before the nearest rail, look and listen in both directions, and cross without shifting gears. 49 CFR §392.10(a)