

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND PRODUCTION AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS



Photos courtesy of USDA NRCS

Beginning September 25, 2003, agricultural producers who ship or transport certain hazardous materials in quantities that require placards must now develop and implement a transportation security plan. This new Federal Department of Transportation rule affects transportation of hazardous materials needed to support commercial activities like farming and ranching. Its aim is to deter terrorist and other illegal acts while at the same time limiting a producer's exposure to liability in the event that an illegal act occurs.

For many years diamond-shaped signs, called placards, have been required on vehicles transporting certain types and quantities of hazardous materials. Placards provide first-on-scene emergency responders with the information necessary to quickly assess an accident situation from a distance, reducing the possibility of someone approaching the accident site without wearing protective clothing or equipment. Fire fighters, police, and other responders can thus avoid unnecessary exposure to a dangerous, perhaps life-threatening, material. Placards indicate to emergency responders how to safely and appropriately handle the accident, mitigate the threat of environmental damage, and conduct life-saving operations. Examples of materials for which a placard is required include pesticides; fertilizers such as anhydrous ammonia or ammonium nitrate; fuels such as gasoline, diesel, and propane; and explosives such as dynamite and detonators.

The following chart lists examples of the types and quantities of hazardous materials that require a placard and, thus, a transportation security plan.

| Material | Quantity | Placard |
|--|---|--|
| Dynamite (Division 1.1 explosive) | Any Amount |  |
| Detonators (Division 1.4 explosive) | More than 1,000 lbs in a single shipment |  |
| Propane (Division 2.1 material) Anhydrous ammonia (Division 2.2 with TIH hazard) Gasoline (Class 3) Pesticides/herbicides that bear a DOT poison label (Division 6.1) Ammonium nitrate fertilizer (Division 5.1) | More than 119 gallons in a single container OR More than 1,000 pounds in multiple containers in a single shipment | <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Propane </div> <div style="text-align: center;">Anhydrous Ammonia </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">Gasoline </div> <div style="text-align: center;">Pesticides/ Herbicides </div> <div style="text-align: center;">Ammonium Nitrate Fertilizer </div> </div> |
| Diesel fuel (Class 3) | More than 119 gallons in a single container |  |

If you do not ship or transport hazardous materials in amounts that require placards you do not need a security plan. Also, if suppliers deliver hazardous materials to your operation, it is their responsibility to have a plan.

If the security plan requirement applies to your operation, the plan must include measures to address personnel, unauthorized access, and *en route* transportation issues.

Personnel Security: If you use employees to pick up and transport placarded hazardous materials from your supplier to your farm, your security plan must include measures to confirm information provided by the employee on his/her job application or resume. Note that this requirement only applies to employees hired after September 25, 2003, who are involved in the actual shipment or transportation of the materials covered by the plan.

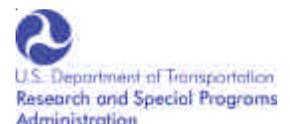
Unauthorized Access: Your security plan must include measures to protect against unauthorized access by using locks or physical/visual observation. For example, if you stop on the way back to your farm for a snack or a meal, you should keep your vehicle in sight and/or lock or secure the material in the vehicle.

Security En Route: Your security plan must include measures to ensure the security of the materials between the time you pick them up and the time you arrive at your farm. In this case, the most effective security measure would be to minimize the time that the shipment is in transit by going directly from your supplier to your farm.

Remember:

- ▶ Your plan can be tailored to your operation.
- ▶ Your plan will not be collected by or kept on file at State or Federal DOT offices.
- ▶ Your plan will be enforced by State or Federal DOT as part of the general enforcement program for the HAZMAT carrier and shipper community but *not as part of any roadside stop inspections*.

You may have a plan in place currently that meets these requirements, such as one drawn up in accordance with agribusiness guidelines issued by The Fertilizer Institute, the Agricultural Retailers Association, CropLife America, or other industry groups or associations, or a plan implementing safety and security measures for pesticides in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency regulations.



For further information, contact the HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION CENTER at 1 (800) HMR-4922