

Marking

(Part 172, Subpart D)

Markings play an important part in the hazmat transportation process because they provide information about the hazardous material inside a packaging, freight container, or transport vehicle.

Marking requirements apply to non-bulk and bulk packagings transported by rail, air, vessel, and highway. Markings are sometimes confused with labeling and placarding. Labels and placards communicate the hazard class or division of the hazardous material; markings provide additional and more specific information about the hazmat.



Marking requirements (§172.304)

Markings must be durable, in English, and printed on or affixed to the surface of a package or on a label, tag, or sign. Markings must be:

- displayed on a background of sharply contrasting color (like black letters on a white box),
- not concealed or hidden by other labels or attachments, and
- located away from any other markings, like advertising or trademarks, that could reduce their effectiveness substantially.

Non-bulk markings (§172.301)

Most non-bulk packagings must be marked with:

- The proper shipping name.
- Technical names, if required.
- Identification numbers.
- The consignee's or consignor's name and address.