Nine Classes of Hazardous Materials

Class 1: Explosives
Divisions: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6

Class 2: Gases
Divisions: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3

Class 3: Flammable Liquid and Combustible Liquid
Divisions 2.1, 2.2, 2.3

Class 4: Flammable Solid, Spontaneously Combustible, and Dangerous When Wet
Divisions 4.1, 4.2, 4.3

Class 5: Oxidizer and Organic Peroxide
Divisions 5.1, 5.2

Class 6: Poison (Toxic) and Poison Inhalation Hazard

Class 7: Radioactive

Class 8: Corrosive

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
www.fmcsa.dot.gov

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Data you collect is used to calculate risk assessment, determine response methods, and develop regulations. Vehicles carrying hazardous materials are required to carry shipping papers containing the HM Class and ID number (or name). Your Accident or Collision Report/Supplement may ask the following hazardous materials questions (exact wording will vary by State):

1. DOES THE VEHICLE HAVE A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PLACARD?  YES ☐  NO ☐

Placards should be on all four sides of the vehicle. For containers with bulk packages inside, if the required ID# marking is not visible, the transport vehicle must be marked on each side and each end.

2. ENTER THE FOUR-DIGIT NUMBER (OR NAME) FROM THE PLACARD

The four-digit number may be on an orange panel or a white “square-on-point” panel. If no four-digit number appears on the placard, enter the Placard Name.

3. ENTER THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CLASS NUMBER FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE PLACARD  3

The Class Number can be a one- or two-digit number with a decimal in the middle. 5.1
It is critical for identifying and studying various types of hazardous materials involved in traffic crashes.

4. WAS HAZARDOUS CARGO RELEASED?

YES ☐  NO ☐

The intent of this question is to determine whether any of the placarded material was released or escaped from its transport container into the environment. Fuel or oil carried by the vehicle for its own use is NOT considered cargo and should not be reported in this section.