

For information about hazmat publications and other training materials:

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<http://hazmat.dot.gov>

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U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Pipeline and  
Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration**  
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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

# Do You Know if You're Shipping Hazardous Materials?



**COSTHA**  
Council on the  
Safe Transportation of  
Hazardous Articles

  
U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Pipeline and  
Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration**

**I**f you ship, or offer for shipment, any material that has been determined to be a hazardous material by the U.S.

Department of Transportation (DOT), you must comply with the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) found in Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR) Parts 171-180. Violations of the HMR may result in civil penalties which can range from \$250 to \$50,000, or criminal penalties which may include fines and/or imprisonment.

Many individuals may not know they're shipping hazardous materials (hazmat), and therefore don't know they must comply with the HMR. Restrictions also apply to airline passengers and the luggage they carry or check. The DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) can help you determine if you're shipping hazmat. PHMSA can also assist you in getting training so that you can comply with the HMR and help keep our transportation system safe.

An undeclared hazardous material is one that is offered for transportation in commerce without any indication that a hazardous material is present in the package. A properly

prepared package containing hazardous material must have specific markings and labels required by the HMR and must be accompanied by shipping papers that properly describe the hazmat. Among the products most often encountered in undeclared shipments are aerosols, flammable materials, cosmetics, paint, corrosive liquids, dry ice, electronic equipment containing batteries, and power equipment without the fuel or oil properly drained.



Shipments of undeclared hazmat, particularly those shipped by air, pose a significant safety risk because they may not be safely packaged and are not properly marked and labeled. Anyone who comes in contact with an undeclared hazmat shipment is at risk if a leak or spill occurs. Undeclared hazmat shipments have caused planes to crash, as well as serious injuries and even death. In the event of spills or leaks, undeclared hazmat shipments pose a danger to emergency responders. The appropriate markings, labels, and shipping papers on a package containing a hazardous material alert transport workers of the appropriate

safe handling measures necessary and emergency responders of the potential danger of the materials so they know the measures to take. You can help keep transportation workers, emergency responders, and the public safe, and avoid penalties, by finding out if you are shipping hazmat.

To learn more, contact the Hazardous Materials Info-Center at 1-800-467-4922. Info-Center specialists are available to answer your calls Monday through Friday, from 9 AM to 5 PM Eastern Standard Time. Calls received after hours will be returned before the end of the next business day. You can also visit our hazmat safety homepage at: <http://hazmat.dot.gov>.

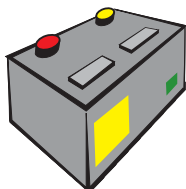
United States Postal Service (USPS) regulations pertaining to the mailability of hazardous materials are found in the Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service – Domestic Mail Manual (DMM), and USPS Publication 52 Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail, and apply to materials shipped in the U.S. Mail. Information regarding USPS mailing standards for domestic and international mail is available at <http://pe.usps.gov>.

## UNDECLARED HAZMAT COMMONLY SHIPPED



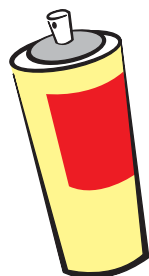
**Cosmetics:** hair care products, perfumes, bath oils

**Automotive:** airbags, batteries, touchup paint, flares



**Household items:** drain cleaners, solvents

**Flammable liquids or solids:** fuels, paints, lighter refills



**Pressure containers:** spray cans, butane fuel, scuba tanks, propane tanks, CO<sub>2</sub> cartridges, self-inflating rafts

**Weapons:** ammunition, gun powder, mace, pepper spray, tear gas

**Other hazardous materials:** Dry ice used in food shipments, gasoline powered tools, wet-cell batteries, camping equipment containing fuel, infectious substances, fireworks

