

Quick-Reference Guide: Understanding the Hazardous Materials Table (HMT)

What is the Hazardous Materials Table (HMT)?

- Found in **49 CFR 172.101**
 - Lists hazardous materials and their transportation requirements
 - Used to determine proper **classification, labeling, packaging, and transport restrictions**
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Key Columns in the Hazardous Materials Table (HMT)

1. Column 1 – Symbols

- Identifies special rules and restrictions
- Common symbols:
 - **“+”** – Fixes proper shipping name regardless of hazard class
 - **“A”** – Restricted to air transport
 - **“W”** – Restricted to water transport
 - **“I”** – International transportation only

2. Column 2 – Proper Shipping Name

- Official **regulated name** of the material
- Must be **exactly as listed** in shipping papers and package markings

3. Column 3 – Hazard Class or Division

- Defines the **type of hazard** (e.g., Flammable Liquid, Toxic Gas, Corrosive)
- Determines **labeling and placarding requirements**

4. Column 4 – UN/NA Identification Number

- **Four-digit** code assigned to hazardous materials
- Used for **placards, labels, and shipping documentation**

5. Column 5 – Packing Group (PG)

- Indicates **degree of danger**:

- **PG I** – High danger
- **PG II** – Medium danger
- **PG III** – Low danger

6. Column 6 – Required Hazard Warning Labels

- Specifies **DOT hazard labels** that must be applied to packages

7. Column 7 – Special Provisions

- Lists additional **handling, transport, or exemption requirements**

8. Column 8 – Packaging Requirements

- **Non-bulk, bulk, and aircraft-specific packaging regulations**

9. Column 9 – Quantity Limitations for Air Transport

- **Maximum allowable quantities** per passenger and cargo aircraft

10. Column 10 – Vessel Stowage Requirements

- Special conditions for **hazmat transport by water**

How to Use the HMT for Compliance

1. **Find the hazardous material in Column 2**
2. **Check the UN ID number and hazard class**
3. **Determine packing group and label requirements**
4. **Review special provisions and packaging requirements**
5. **Verify transportation mode limitations (air, rail, highway, vessel)**
6. **Ensure correct placarding and shipping paper documentation**

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

✗ Using an incorrect **UN number or shipping name** ✗ Failing to apply **proper hazard labels or placards** ✗ Ignoring **special provisions and packaging restrictions** ✗ Overlooking **quantity limitations for air or vessel transport**

- ✓ **Always double-check the HMT before transporting hazardous materials!**
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Quick Tips for Using the HMT

✓ Keep an updated **copy of 49 CFR 172.101** in your truck or dispatch office ✓ Use **placard calculators** to ensure proper markings ✓ When in doubt, **consult your supervisor or compliance officer**

By mastering the **Hazardous Materials Table (HMT)**, you ensure **safety, compliance, and proper handling of hazardous cargo**.

Next Steps:

- Review **Step-by-Step Job Aid on Using the HMT**
- Take the **Scenario-Based Quiz** to test your knowledge