

T ransporting Pesticides

Certain precautions should be taken when transporting pesticides. Traffic accidents can happen even when you travel only a short distance, and improperly loaded pesticide containers can fall off your vehicle or become punctured or torn. Because pesticides are transported on public roads, the potential damage from such accidents is great.

Never transport pesticides with food, livestock feed or minerals. Also, transport pesticides separately from seed, grain or consumer goods.

Keep a hazardous materials spill kit in your vehicle at all times. A spill kit commonly contains chemical-resistant gloves, coverall and goggles; sorbent pads and absorbent material (such as kitty litter); and a plastic temporary storage container.

In case of a pesticide spill follow the three “Cs”: control, contain, and cleanup. **Control** the spill immediately to prevent further spillage. **Contain** the spill. Dike the spill with absorbent material or sorbent pads to keep it out of water and prevent environmental contamination. **Clean up** the spill. Use absorbent material to soak up the spill, then shovel contaminated material into a plastic storage container for disposal. Additional information is available by calling the Michigan Department of Agriculture’s Agriculture Pollution Emergency Hotline at 1-800-405-0101.

What Vehicle to Use

The safest way to transport pesticides is in the back of a truck or pickup. Never carry pesticides in the passenger compartment of a vehicle. If you use a flatbed truck, it should have side and tail racks. If the truck has a wooden bed, insert an impervious liner such as plastic or a truck bed liner before loading pesticides. Nonporous beds are preferred because they can be easily decontaminated in case of an accidental spill. Make sure your truck is in good operating condition to help reduce the chance of an accident (see *Vehicle Maintenance Checklist*).

Loading Pesticides

Wear work clothing and chemical-resistant gloves even when handling unopened pesticide containers, in case the container should leak. Also, carry protective clothing and equipment in the passenger compartment of the vehicle. You will need protective equipment if a spill or other pesticide-related accident should occur.

Thoroughly inspect all containers at the time of purchase before loading. Accept them only if the labels are legible and firmly attached. Check all caps, plugs, or bungs and tighten them if necessary. If leakage has occurred, do not accept the container. Request another container.

When loading containers, handle them carefully; don’t toss or drop them. Avoid sliding containers over rough surfaces that could rip bags or puncture rigid containers. Know safe handling procedures when using fork lifts. Secure all containers to the truck to prevent load shifts and potential container damage. Protect containers made of paper, cardboard, or similar materials from rain or moisture.

Unloading Pesticides

Never leave pesticides unattended. *You are legally responsible if people are accidentally poisoned from pesticides left unattended in your vehicle.* Move the pesticides into your storage facility as soon as possible. Inspect the vehicle thoroughly after unloading to determine if any containers were damaged or any pesticide leaked or spilled.



Always carry an emergency spill kit and carefully secure all pesticide containers.

Transporting Hazardous Pesticides

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has designated many chemical compounds, including some pesticides, as hazardous materials (hazmat). If you transport any of these materials on public roads in commerce you are required to comply with DOT hazmat regulation 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 100-185. To determine which pesticides are classified as hazardous, refer to hazmat tables (HMT) I and II (49 CFR part 172.101). To be in compliance, you may be required to:

- Carry shipping papers in your vehicle: including an emergency response phone number and material safety data sheets (MSDS) for the pesticides in transport;
- Receive training concerning DOT hazmat regulatory requirements;
- Be sure that packages are properly labeled and/or marked;
- Placard your vehicle if transporting a bulk container or 1,000 pounds or more of a pesticide from HMT II or any amount of a pesticide from HMT I and,
- Obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) when required.

Shipping Papers. When you transport any hazardous pesticide, carry the proper shipping papers in the passenger compartment of the vehicle. While you are driving (belted and operating vehicle), the

papers must be within your reach and readily recognizable by emergency personnel or placed in a door pouch. These papers provide information about the chemical that can be used to prevent further damage or injury in case of an accident. Your pesticide dealer will help you obtain the proper papers. Also carry the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each hazardous pesticide or an emergency response guidance manual that cross references a chemical's shipping name with emergency response information.

Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Training. The DOT hazmat training increases your awareness of safety considerations involved in loading, unloading, handling, storing, shipping paper preparation, marking, labeling, placarding, and transportation of hazardous pesticides. It also improves emergency preparedness for responding to transportation accidents. Hazmat training includes: general awareness training, function-specific training, and safety training.

DOT Training is Available. The DOT Office of Hazardous Materials Safety has prepared training modules that meet the requirements for general awareness hazmat training. These modules are available on-line (<http://hazmat.dot.gov/mod.htm>) or on an interactive CD-ROM. (For more information, phone: 202-366-2301 or 800-467-4922 ext. 3 or email: training@rspa.dot.gov.) A list of training opportunities for the function-specific and safety training sections is available on-line (<http://hazmat.dot.gov/training.htm>) or can be obtained by contacting the DOT Office of Hazardous Materials Initiatives and Training (Phone: 202-366-4900 or email: training@rspa.dot.gov). Specialized training is available from the DOT Transportation Safety Institute as well (405-949-0036 ext. 374).

Labeling and Marking. Always check each package (e.g., cardboard box, metal drum) to be sure it is properly labeled and/or marked. Labeling means a prescribed hazard warning notice (usually diamond-shaped) on the outer package. Marking means the required words are written on the side of the outer package including shipping name, identification number, specifications or UN marks, plus other required information, instructions or cautions.

Accessing the Regulations

Two sources of the hazardous materials regulations are available:

The U.S. Code of Federal Regulations is available on-line at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search.html>

The print version is for sale from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop: SSOP, Washington, DC 20402-9828. It is published by the "Office of the Federal Register National Archives and Records Administration" as a Special Edition of the Federal Register.

Placarding. For most hazardous pesticides (HMT II) in non-bulk, you will need to placard your vehicle when you transport as little as 1,000 pounds of the chemical. When transporting hazardous pesticides (HMT II) in bulk (over 119 gallons) or any amount from HMT I, placarding is required at all times. Place placards, which are available from your pesticide dealer, on all four sides of your vehicle.

Commercial Drivers License. Contact the hazardous materials coordinator at the Michigan State Patrol (517-336-6605) or the 911 emergency operator for more information on training, shipping papers, labeling, marking, and placarding. For more information on the CDL, contact the Michigan Secretary of State at 517-322-1460 or your local drivers license examiner.

Farmer Exception

Farmers have been granted exceptions from the DOT hazmat regulations, if they are a private motor carrier transporting pesticides within the state of Michigan. Farmers can transport *DOT-defined hazardous pesticides* (other than compressed gases) between fields of the same farm over any roadway EXCEPT the interstate highway system. Farmers also have had emergency response information and hazmat employee training requirements waived when they were transporting agricultural pesticides to or from their farm (within 150 miles of the farm).



Check all shipping containers for proper DOT labeling and marking.