Examples of Canadian and International Placards and Labels

The shipment of hazardous materials internationally is governed by one or more regulatory bodies with regulations that may be similar to domestic regulations or radically different. Canada, for example, has adopted wordless placards and labels because their country is bilingual. Canada also requires cargo and rail tanks to use retro-reflective placarding. However, Canada and the United States have reciprocity regarding the use of wordless and worded placards and labels.

Several international organizations govern the transportation of hazardous materials according to the mode of transportation. If a shipment is going by water, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has authority. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is concerned about the safe shipment of dangerous goods (*i.e.,* hazardous materials) by air. Transport Canada (TC) is the Canadian counterpart to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

The United Nations publishes "Recommendations for the Transport of Dangerous Goods," a publication that is used by many nations of the world when promulgating regulations. Since the safe transport of hazardous materials is of concern to people everywhere, the work done by the United Nations is of critical importance world-wide. Labels and placards used in the Canadian, IMO, and ICAO regulations are generally based on the U.N. Recomendations, although Canada has some labels and placard designs that vary from the U.N. White borders are optional on International Placards.

Examples of Wordless Placards and Labels

Pictured here are typical wordless placards and labels required for use in Canada and many other countries around the world.

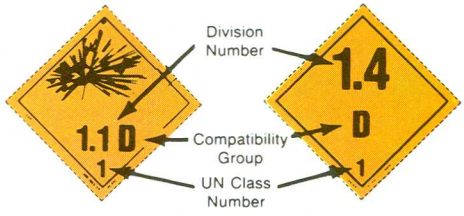
Examples of International and Canadian Placards and Labels

Spontaneously Combustible and Keep Away From Food placards and labels are used internationally and in Canada. The Corrosive Gas placard and label are used exclusively in Canada. Most placards and labels used internationally are similar (color and symbols) to those required by DOT regulations.

UN Class Numbers

Class 1: Explosives
Class 2: Gases (compressed, liquified or dissolved under pressure
Class 3: Flammable liquids
Class 4: Flammable solids or substances
Class 5: Oxidizing substances. Division 5.1, Oxidizing substances or agents. Division 5.2, Organic peroxides.
Class 6: Poisonous and infectious substances
Class 7: Radioactive substances
Class 8: Corrosives
Class 9: Misc. dangerous substances

Examples of Explosive Labels



The Numerical Designation represents the Class or Division. Alphabetical Designation represents the Compatibility Group (for Explosives only). Division Numbers and Compatibility Group combinations can result in over 30 different "Explosives" labels (see IMDG Code/ICAO).

For complete details, refer to one or more of the following:

- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Transportation. Parts 100-199. [All modes]
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air [Air]
- International Maritime Organization (IMO) Dangerous Goods Code [Water]
- "Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations" of Transport Canada. [All Modes]

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