

## Placarding Requirements for LP-Gas Shipments

### **Description:**

U.S. DOT regulations require hazardous material placarding for commercial motor vehicles (more than 1,001 pound gross weight, including the weight of the container) and railcars transporting LP-gas, DOT portable tanks, intermodal tanks, and, in some cases, for individual ASME tanks.

### **Regulatory Reference**

49 CFR Part 172 Subpart F Placarding

49 CFR § 172.500	Applicability of placarding requirements
49 CFR § 172.502	Prohibited and permissive placarding
49 CFR § 172.503	Identification number display on placards
49 CFR § 172.504	General placarding requirements
49 CFR § 172.505	Placarding for subsidiary hazards
49 CFR § 172.506	Providing and affixing placards: Highway
49 CFR § 172.507	Special placarding provisions: Highway
49 CFR § 172.508	Placarding and affixing placards: Rail
49 CFR § 172.510	Special placarding provisions: Rail
49 CFR § 172.514	Bulk packaging
49 CFR § 172.516	Visibility and display of placards
49 CFR § 172.519	General specifications for placards
49 CFR § 172.532	FLAMMABLE GAS placard

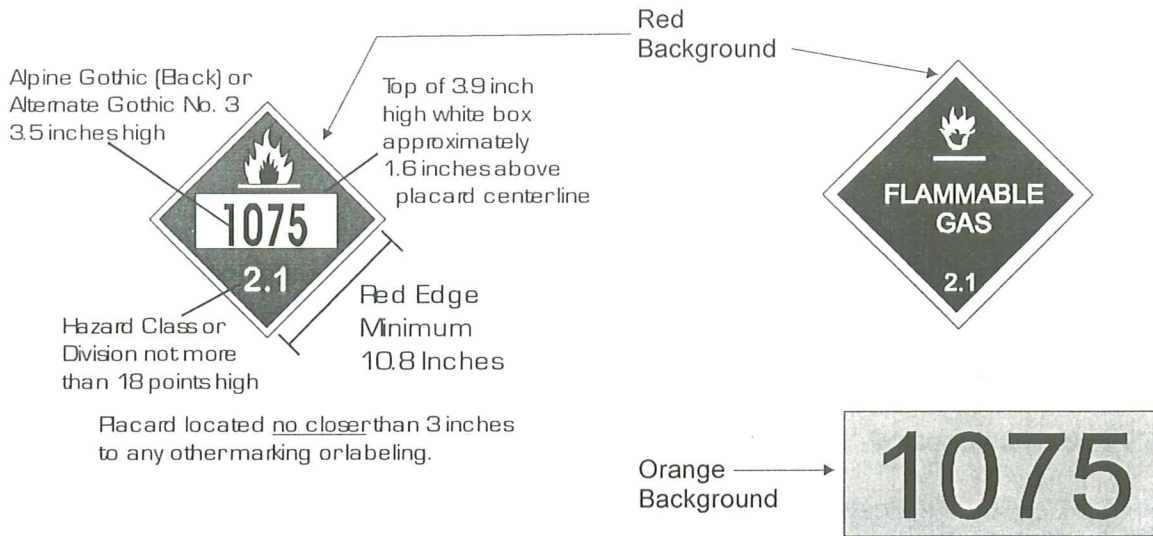
Appendix A to Part 172 Office of Hazardous Materials Transportation Color Tolerance Charts and Tables

### **Applies to:**

The regulations apply to shipments of LP-gas in excess of specified amounts or containers in excess of specified capacities by truck or rail.

### **General Requirements:**

- (1) 49 CFR § 172.504 requires that “each bulk packaging, freight container, unit load device, transport vehicle or rail car containing any quantity of a hazardous material must be placarded on each side and each end with the type of placards specified” ... [in table 2 for LP-gas] ... “and in accordance with other placarding requirements of this subpart, including the specifications for the placards named in the tables and described in detail in §§ 172.519 through 172.560.”
- (2) Paragraph (c)(1) of § 172.504 states that [with regard to LP-gas, which does not require a subsidiary hazard placard] placards are not required on “a transport vehicle or freight container which contains less than 1,001 pound aggregate gross weight of hazardous materials covered by table 2 of paragraph (e) of this section.
- (3) General placarding requirements for LP-gas shipments are shown on the following page.



a. Combined DOT/ UN Placard

b. Separate DOT and UN Placards

### U.S. DOT Placarding Requirements for LP-Gas

Vehicle or Container Type	Placarding Required	
	2 Sides	Front, Rear, & 2 Sides
<b>Cargo Tank</b> (Bobtails and Transports)		✓
<u>Cylinder Delivery*</u>		✓
<u>Tank-Setting Trailer or Truck*</u>		✓
<u>Railcar</u>		✓
<b>Intermodal (IM) or DOT Spec. 51 Portable Tanks</b>		
1,000 Gal. and over		✓
Less than 1,000 Gal,	✓	
<b>ASME Tank</b> (unless FLAMMABLE GAS labels applied)		
1,000 Gal. and over		✓
Less than 1,000 Gal,	✓	
*Vehicle and container placards are not required if the cargo of LP-gas is less than 1,001 pounds aggregate gross weight [aggregate gross weight includes the weight of the container(s)].		

- (4) 49 CFR § 172.502 prohibits the displaying of placards on vehicles or containers when the hazardous materials are not present. Vehicles cannot have any marking that could be mistaken for a placard or that resembles a placard, but is not in fact a hazardous material or other prescribed placard. For example, a “Drive Carefully” message on a changeable placard holder is prohibited.

#### Training Requirements:

Placarding requirements is a required element of hazmat employee training.

### **Maintenance and Review**

Most operating companies instruct managers and supervisors to periodically check employee verifications of proper placarding of cargo tanks, tanks, and tank-setting vehicles, and rail cars, if applicable. Verification of proper vehicle placarding and acceptable condition of placards is sometimes incorporated into company standard operating procedures as a step in pre-trip inspections of delivery vehicles.

### **Additional Information and Resources**

*Propane Delivery, Certification Area 2.0, Certified Employee Training Program, National Propane Gas Association, Lisle, IL*

*Initial OSHA and DOT Training: For the Handling and Transport of Hazardous Materials, Propane Education and Research Council, Washington, DC*