

**OFFICIAL MEXICAN STANDARD
NOM-004-SCT2/1994.
SYSTEM FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF UNITS
INTENDED FOR THE LAND TRANSPORT OF
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTES.**

1. OBJECTIVE

This standard sets forth the characteristics and size of the placards that must be displayed by trucks, units of haulage, tank-containers and intermediate bulk containers and other units of carriage by highway and rail, which placards identify the hazardous substances, materials and wastes transported [and] indicate the risks presented during said transport.

2. APPLICABILITY

This Official Mexican Standard applies compulsorily to the shippers, carriers and consignees of the hazardous substances, materials and wastes which transit through the general lines of land communication.

3. REFERENCES

To correctly implement this standard, the following Official Mexican Standards must be consulted:

NOM-002-SCT2/1994	LISTING OF THE MOST COMMONLY TRANSPORTED HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND MATERIALS.
NOM-003-SCT2/1994	CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LABELS OF PACKAGES AND PACKAGINGS INTENDED FOR THE TRANSPORT OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTES.
NOM-010-SCT28/1994	COMPATIBILITY AND SEGREGATION PROVISIONS FOR THE STORAGE AND TRANSPORT OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES, MATERIALS AND WASTES.
NOM-011-SCT2/1994	CONDITIONS FOR THE TRANSPORT OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES, MATERIALS AND WASTES IN LIMITED QUANTITIES.

WHICH SETS FORTH THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HAZARDOUS WASTES, PROVIDES A LISTING OF SAID WASTES, AND SPECIFIES THE LIMITS BEYOND WHICH A WASTE BECOMES HAZARDOUS TO THE ENVIRONMENT DUE TO ITS TOXICITY.

4. DEFINITIONS

- 4.1 Preponderance.- Greater risk presented by one substance with respect to another.
- 4.2 Identification System for Units Intended for the Land Transport of Hazardous Materials and Wastes.- A form of graphic, visual expression involving diamond-shaped lozenges containing symbols, numbers, letters or texts for identifying the hazardous substance or waste transported in its package or packaging.
- 4.3 Placard.- A printed or engraved sign for identifying the contents and the risk presented by the product being transported.
- 4.4 Symbol.- A simple image that shows in easily interpreted graphic form the meaning of the type of risk presented by the hazardous material.

5. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 5.1 The units of carriage by highway and rail used for the transport of hazardous substances and wastes must use identification placards as safety signals[;] these placards must also indicate the principal risk associated with the hazardous substance or waste, as well as the United Nations number which identifies said risk, and they must be located in the top middle part of the side views, and in the back of the units of carriage by highway[;] in the case of a tractor or truck, they must be placed on the tractor or on the load unit, so long as its visibility is not so obstructed as to impair its immediate identification, and for double-semitrailer vehicular combinations, the placards shall be located in both trailers[;] in units of carriage by rail, the placards must be located on both sides and in the ends in the placard holders with which they are fitted and which are required for each type of unit. (Figure No. 1.)
- 5.2 For all classes, except those of class 7, these must be attached to the models which are indicated in Standard NOM-003-SCT2. The placard corresponding to Class 7 is reproduced in Figure No. 2.
- 5.3 Units transporting hazardous substances or wastes in tanks which have not been cleaned must display placards clearly visible on said unit. In the case of carriage units having a multi-

compartment tank and transporting more than one hazardous substance or wastes, the corresponding placards must be displayed on each side of the compartment being used.

6. SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE PLACARDS

The placards must be manufactured in accordance with the following characteristics.

- 6.1 They must be of a highly weather-resistant material in such a way as not to become discolored or distorted under normal use, in order to prevent the information contained in said placards from deteriorating.
- 6.2 They must be of a removable or overlaid type, according to the type of use.
- 6.3 They must have the shape of a lozenge, with minimum dimensions of 273 mm x 273 mm, per side, [and] display a line having the same color as the symbol and drawn 12.7 mm from the outer edge and parallel to it, as shown in Annex 3. The sole exceptions shall be the temperature placard, the fumigation placard and the orange-colored rectangular plate for the United Nations identification number.
- 6.4 They must correspond to the relevant hazardous substance class label to which the color or symbol refers.
- 6.5 They must display the class or division number (as well as, in the case of Class 1 substances, the compatibility group letter) of the concerned hazardous substances.
- 6.6 The top portion shall show the internal symbol of the substance being transported according to the risk classification, while the lower vertex shall show the number corresponding to the class or division of risk of said substance; the middle portion shall display, inside a rectangle, the identification number assigned to the substance by the United Nations Organization. This number may be found in Standard NOM-002-SCT2; if not, the specific product number must be compared against the generic numbers in the listing of the above-cited standard for the class of risk of the substance transported. (See Figure No. 3.)
- 6.7 When the identification number is not displayed inside the placard, and in its place the risk words are indicated in the central rectangle of the placard, an orange-colored rectangular plate, having minimum dimensions of 120 mm high and 300 mm as well as a 10-mm black border, shall be displayed immediately to the side of the placard. (See Figure No. 7.)
- 6.8 Each digit of the identification number of the material (United Nations number) must have the following minimum dimensions: 101.1 mm high x 54 mm wide.

6.9 When intermediate bulk containers, tank-containers and any type of empty units of carriage by rail being moved have transported hazardous substances, said units must display the caption "wastes", in the lower placard portion assigned to the United Nations number, until such time as its cleaning and decontamination is effected. (See Figure No. 4.) In the case of units of carriage by highway, the placard which was originally displayed shall be maintained.

Those transport units which have been cleaned and decontaminated, said cleaning and waste control being certified, need not display identification placards.

6.10 Once the vehicular units, whether for carriage by rail or the road tank-vehicles [are] washed (completely freed of residues) and possess the accrediting certificate, use of placards signalling the risk presented by the freight may be discontinued.

6.11 In the event that the unit transports a substance in the liquid state at a temperature equal to or greater than 100EC, or a solid substance at a temperature equal to or greater than 240EC, it shall display, in addition to the risk placard, a temperature placard[;] said placard shall have a triangular shape, with side dimensions of at least 250 mm, and shall be orange-colored, as indicated in Figure 5.

6.12 In the event that the unit of carriage is fumigated, it must display the fumigation warning placard for the whole duration of the fumigation effect, as shown in Figure No. 6[;] this rectangular-shaped placard must have sides of at least 250 mm by 300 mm and be of white and black color.

6.13 The placards must display the secondary risks specified in Official Mexican Standard NOM-002-SCT2. Nevertheless, those units which transport materials of more than one class, shall not display a secondary risk placard if the risk corresponding to said placard is already indicated by a primary risk placard.

-END-