

Subpart C—General Handling and Loading Requirements

§ 174.55 General requirements.

(a) Each package containing a hazardous material being transported by rail in a freight container or transport vehicle must be loaded so that it cannot fall or slide and must be safeguarded in such a manner that other freight cannot fall onto or slide into it under conditions normally incident to transportation. When this protection cannot be provided by using other freight, it must be provided by blocking and bracing. For examples of blocking and bracing in freight containers and transport vehicles, see Bureau of Explosives Pamphlet Nos. 6 and 6C.

(b) Each package containing a hazardous material bearing package orientation markings prescribed in §172.312 of this subchapter must be loaded within a transport vehicle or freight container to remain in the correct position indicated by those markings during transportation.

(c) The doors of a freight container or transport vehicle may not be used to secure a load that includes a package containing a hazardous material unless the doors meet the design strength requirements of Specification M-930 (for freight containers) and M-931 (for trailers) in the AAR's specification for "Specially Equipped Freight Car and Intermodal Equipment" (IBR, see §171.7 of this subchapter) and the load is also within the limits of the design strength requirements for the doors.

[Amdt. 174-83, 61 FR 28677, June 5, 1996, as amended at 68 FR 75747, Dec. 31, 2003]

§ 174.57 Cleaning cars.

All hazardous material which has leaked from a package in any rail car or on other railroad property must be carefully removed.

§ 174.59 Marking and placarding of rail cars.

No person may transport a rail car carrying hazardous materials unless it is marked and placarded as required by this subchapter. Placards and car certificates lost in transit must be replaced at the next inspection point, and those not required must be removed at the next terminal where the train is classified. For Canadian shipments, required placards lost in transit, must be replaced either by those required by part 172 of this subchapter or by those authorized under §171.12a.

[Amdt. 174-26, 41 FR 16092, Apr. 15, 1976, as amended by Amdt. 174-48, 50 FR 41521, Oct. 11, 1985]

§ 174.61 Transport vehicles and freight containers on flat cars.

(a) A transport vehicle, freight container, or package containing a hazardous material must be designed and loaded so that it will not become damaged to an extent that would affect its integrity under conditions normally incident to transportation. Each unit must be secured on a flatcar so that it cannot permanently change position during transit. Packages of hazardous materials contained therein must be loaded and braced as provided by §§174.101, 174.112, 174.115 and 174.55. Placards must be applied when prescribed by part 172 of this subchapter and part 174.

(b) Except as specified in §173.21, a truck body, trailer, or freight container equipped with heating or refrigerating equipment which has fuel or any article classed as a hazardous material may be loaded and transported on a flat car as part of a joint rail highway movement. The heating or refrigerating equipment is considered to be a part of the truck body or trailer and is not subject to any other requirements of this subchapter. The truck body, trailer, or freight container must be secured on the flatcar so that it cannot change position during transit.

[Amdt. 174–26, 41 FR 16092, Apr. 15, 1976, as amended by Amdt. 174–26A, 41 FR 40685, Sept. 20, 1976; Amdt. 174–38, 45 FR 32698, May 19, 1980; Amdt. 174–39, 45 FR 81572, Dec. 11, 1980; Amdt. 174–59, 51 FR 5974, Feb. 18, 1986; Amdt. 174–68, 57 FR 45464, Oct. 1, 1992; Amdt. 174–79, 59 FR 64744, Dec. 15, 1994]

§ 174.63 Portable tanks, IM portable tanks, IBCs, cargo tanks, and multi-unit tank car tanks.

(a) A carrier may not transport a bulk packaging (e.g., portable tank, IM portable tank, IBC, cargo tank, or multi-unit tank car tank) containing a hazardous material in container-on-flatcar (COFC) or trailer-on-flatcar (TOFC) service except as authorized by this section or unless approved for transportation by the Associate Administrator for Safety, FRA.

(b) A bulk packaging containing a hazardous material (including IM 101 and IM 102 when appropriate according to dimensions and weight distribution) may be transported inside a fully closed transport vehicle or fully closed freight container provided it is properly secured with a restraint system that will prevent it from changing position, sliding into other packages, or contacting the side or end walls (including doors) under conditions normally incident to transportation.

(c) When not transported in conformance with and subject to paragraph (b) of this section, a bulk packaging may be transported in COFC service or TOFC service subject to the following conditions as applicable:

(1) The bulk packaging contains a material packaged in accordance with §173.240, 173.241, 173.242, or 173.243 of this subchapter;

(2) The tank and flatcar conform to requirements in AAR 600 of the AAR Specifications for Tank Cars, “Specifications for Acceptability of Tank Containers” (IBR, see §171.7 of this subchapter);

(3) For TOFC service, the trailer chassis conforms to requirements in paragraphs 3, 4, 5, and 6 of AAR Specification M–943, “Container Chassis For TOFC Service” of the AAR specification for “Specially Equipped Freight Car and Intermodal Equipment” (IBR, see §171.7 of this subchapter);

(4) For COFC service, the container support and securement systems conform to requirements in Specification M–952, “Intermodal Container Support and Securement Systems for Freight Cars”, of the AAR specification for “Specially Equipped Freight Car and Intermodal Equipment” (IBR, see §171.7 of this subchapter);

(5) If transported in a well car—

(i) The tank is not in a double-stacked configuration (i.e., no freight container or portable tank is placed above or below the tank); and

(ii) The tank is transported in the well with its outlet valve facing outward towards the end of the well and away from any adjacent tank or container; and

(6) All securement fittings shall be fully engaged and in the locked position, provided; however, if the tank is transported in a well car, it must be loaded into a well appropriate for the length of the container and any void filling device present must be secured in its designed appropriate position.

(d) An approval in effect on February 28, 1991 for the transportation of portable tanks or IM portable tanks in TOFC or COFC service expires on the date stated in the approval letter or June 15, 1995, whichever is later.

(e) A carrier may not transport a cargo tank or multi-unit tank car tank containing a hazardous material in TOFC or COFC service unless approved for such service by the Associate Administrator for Safety, FRA. However, in the event of an accident or incident, no such approval is necessary for the transportation of a cargo tank containing a hazardous material in TOFC service under the following condition(s):

- (1) There is an emergency need for the cargo tank in order to mitigate the consequences of an incident; and
- (2) Movement of the cargo tank is limited to transportation necessary for emergency purposes.

[Amdt. 174-79, 59 FR 64744, Dec. 15, 1994, as amended by 66 FR 45383, Aug. 28, 2001; 68 FR 75747, Dec. 31, 2003]

§ 174.67 Tank car unloading.

For transloading operations, the following rules must be observed:

- (a) *General requirements.* (1) Unloading operations must be performed by hazmat employees properly instructed in unloading hazardous materials and made responsible for compliance with this section.
 - (2) Each hazmat employee who is responsible for unloading must apply the handbrake and block at least one wheel to prevent movement in any direction. If multiple tank cars are coupled together, sufficient hand brakes must be set and wheels blocked to prevent movement in both directions.
 - (3) Each hazmat employee who is responsible for unloading must secure access to the track to prevent entry by other rail equipment, including motorized service vehicles. This requirement may be satisfied by lining each switch providing access to the unloading area against movement and securing each switch with an effective locking device, or by using derails, portable bumper blocks, or other equipment that provides and equivalent level of safety.
 - (4) Each hazmat employee who is responsible for unloading must display caution signs on the track or on the tank cars to warn persons approaching the cars from the open end of the track and must be left up until after all closures are secured and the cars are in proper condition for transportation. The caution signs must be of metal or other durable material, rectangular, at 30.48 cm (12 inches) high by 38.10 cm (15 inches) wide, and bear the word "STOP." The word "STOP" must appear in letters at least 10.16 cm (4 inches) high. The letters must be white on a blue background. Additional words, such as "Tank Car Connected" or "Crew at Work," may also appear in white letters under the word "STOP."
 - (5) The transloading facility operator must maintain written safety procedures (such as those it may already be required to maintain pursuant to the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements in 29 CFR 1910.119 and 1910.120) in a location where they are immediately available to hazmat employees responsible for the transloading operation.
 - (6) Before a manhole cover or outlet valve cap is removed from a tank car, the car must be relieved of all interior pressure by cooling the tank with water or by venting the tank by raising the safety valve or opening the dome vent at short intervals. However, if venting to relieve pressure will cause a dangerous amount of vapor to collect outside the car, venting and unloading must be deferred until the pressure is reduced by allowing the car to stand overnight or otherwise cooling the contents. These precautions are not necessary when the car is equipped with a manhole cover which hinges inward or with an inner manhole cover which does not have to be removed to unload the car, and when pressure is relieved by piping vapor into a condenser or storage tank.
- (b) After the pressure is released, the seal must be broken and the manhole cover removed as follows:
- (1) *Screw type.* The cover must be loosened by placing a bar between the manhole cover lug and knob. After two complete turns, so that vent openings are exposed, the operation must be stopped, and if there is any sound of escaping vapor, the cover must be screwed down tightly and the interior pressure relieved as prescribed in paragraph (a)(4) of this section, before again attempting to remove the cover.

(2) *Hinged and bolted type*. All nuts must be unscrewed one complete turn, after which same precautions as prescribed for screw type cover must be observed.

(3) *Interior type*. All dirt and cinders must be carefully removed from around the cover before the yoke is unscrewed.

(c) When the car is unloaded through a bottom outlet valve, the manhole cover must be adjusted as follows:

(1) *Screw type*. The cover must be put in place, but not entirely screwed down, so that air may enter the tank through the vent holes in threaded flange of the cover.

(2) *Hinged and bolted type*. A non-metallic block must be placed under one edge of the cover.

(3) *Interior type*. The screw must be tightened up in the yoke so that the cover is brought up within one-half inch of the closed position.

(d) When unloading through the bottom outlet of a car equipped with an interior manhole type cover, and in each case where unloading is done through the manhole (unless a special cover with a safety vent opening and a tight connection for the discharge outlet is used), the manhole must be protected by asbestos or metal covers against the entrance of sparks or other sources of ignition of vapor, or by being covered and surrounded with wet burlap or similar cloth material. The burlap or other cloth must be kept damp by the replacement or the application of water as needed.

(e) Seals or other substances must not be thrown into the tank and the contents may not be spilled over the car or tank.

(f) The valve rod handle or control in the dome must be operated several times to see that outlet valve in bottom of tank is on its seat before valve cap is removed.

(g) The valve cap, or the reducer when a large outlet is to be used, must be removed with a suitable wrench after the set screws are loosened and a pail must be placed in position to catch any liquid that may be in the outlet chamber. If the valve cap or reducer does not unscrew easily, it may be tapped lightly with a mallet or wooden block in an upward direction. If leakage shows upon starting the removal, the cap or reducer may not be entirely unscrewed. Sufficient threads must be left engaged and sufficient time allowed to permit controlled escape of any accumulation of liquid in the outlet chamber. If the leakage stops or the rate of leakage diminishes materially, the cap or reducer may be entirely removed. If the initial rate of leakage continues, further efforts must be made to seat the outlet valve (see paragraph (f) of this section). If this fails, the cap or reducer must be screwed up tight and the tank must be unloaded through the dome. If upon removal of the outlet cap the outlet chamber is found to be blocked with frozen liquid or any other matter, the cap must be replaced immediately and a careful examination must be made to determine whether the outlet casting has been cracked. If the obstruction is not frozen liquid, the car must be unloaded through the dome. If the obstruction is frozen liquid and no crack has been found in the outlet casting, the car may, if circumstances require it, be unloaded from the bottom by removing the cap and attaching unloading connections immediately. Before opening the valve inside the tank car, steam must be applied to the outside of the outlet casting or wrap casting with burlap or other rags and hot water must be applied to melt the frozen liquid.

(h) Unloading connections must be securely attached to unloading pipes on the dome or to the bottom discharge outlets before any discharge valves are opened.

(i) Throughout the entire period of unloading and while a tank car has unloading equipment attached, the facility operator must assure that the tank car is:

(1) Attended by a designated hazmat employee who is physically present and who has an unobstructed view of the unloading operation; or

(2) Monitored by a signaling system (e.g., video system, sensing equipment, or mechanical equipment) that is observed by a designated hazmat employee located either in the immediate area of the tank car or at a remote location within the facility, such as a control room. The signaling system must—

(i) Provide a level of surveillance equivalent to that provided in subparagraph (1) of this paragraph (i); and

- (ii) Provide immediate notification to a designated hazmat employee of any system malfunction or other emergency so that, if warranted, responsive actions may be initiated immediately.
- (j) Attendance is not required when piping is attached to a top outlet of a tank car, equipped with a protective housing required under §179.100–12 of this subchapter, for discharge of lading under the following conditions:
- (1) All valves are tightly closed.
 - (2) The piping is not connected to hose or other unloading equipment and is fitted with a cap or plug of appropriate material and construction.
 - (3) The piping extends no more than 15.24 centimeters (6 inches) from the outer edge of the protective housing.
- (k) In the absence of the unloader, a tank car may stand with unloading connections attached when no product is being transferred under the following conditions:
- (1) The facility operator must designate a hazmat employee responsible for on-site monitoring of the transfer facility. The designated hazmat employee must be made familiar with the nature and properties of the product contained in the tank car; procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency; and, in the event of an emergency, have the ability and authority to take responsible actions.
 - (2) When a signaling system is used in accordance with paragraph (i) of this section, the system must be capable of alerting the designated hazmat employee in the event of an emergency and providing immediate notification of any monitoring system malfunction. If the monitoring system does not have self-monitoring capability, the designated hazmat employee must check the monitoring system hourly for proper operation.
 - (3) The tank car and facility shutoff valves must be secured in the closed position.
 - (4) Brakes must be set and wheels locked in accordance with paragraph (a)(2) of this section.
 - (5) Access to the track must be secured in accordance with paragraph (a)(3) of this section.
- (l) As soon as a tank car is completely unloaded, all valves must be made tight by the use of a bar, wrench or other suitable tool, the unloading connections must be removed and all other closures made tight.
- (m) Railroad defect cards may not be removed.
- (n) If oil or gasoline has been spilled on the ground around connections, it must be covered with fresh, dry sand or dirt.
- (o) All tools and implements used in connection with unloading must be kept free of oil, dirt, and grit.

[Amdt. 174–26, 41 FR 16092, Apr. 15, 1976, as amended by Amdt. 174–26A, 41 FR 40685, Sept. 20, 1976; Amdt. 174–43, 48 FR 27699, June 16, 1983; Amdt. 174–68, 55 FR 52678, Dec. 21, 1990; 56 FR 66280, Dec. 20, 1991; Amdt. 174–81, 60 FR 49111, Sept. 21, 1995; Amdt. 174–83, 61 FR 28678, June 5, 1996; 68 FR 61941, Oct. 30, 2003; 70 FR 20034, Apr. 15, 2005; 72 FR 55693, Oct. 1, 2007]

§ 174.81 Segregation of hazardous materials.

- (a) This section applies to materials which meet one or more of the hazard classes defined in this subchapter and are in packages which are required to be labeled or placarded under the provisions of part 172 of this subchapter.

(b) When a rail car is to be transported by vessel, other than a ferry vessel, hazardous materials on or within that rail car must be stowed and segregated in accordance with §176.83(b) of this subchapter.

(c) Except as provided in §173.12(e) of this subchapter, cyanides, cyanide mixtures or solutions may not be stored, loaded and transported with acids, and Division 4.2 materials may not be stored, loaded and transported with Class 8 liquids.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, hazardous materials must be stored, loaded or transported in accordance with the following table and other provisions of this section:

Segregation Table for Hazardous Materials

Class or Division		Notes	1.1, 1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	2.1	2.2	2.3 gas Zone A	2.3 gas Zone B	3	4.1	4.2	4.3	5.1	5.2	6.1 liquids PG I Zone A	7	8 liquids only	
										X	X							X		X	X
Explosives	1.1 and 1.2	A	*	*	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Explosives	1.3		*	*	*	*	*	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X
Explosives	1.4		*	*	*	*	*	O		O	O	O		O				O			O
Very insensitive explosives	1.5	A	*	*	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Extremely insensitive explosives	1.6		*	*	*	*	*														
Flammable gases	2.1		X	X	O	X				X	O							O		O	
Non-toxic, non-flammable gases	2.2		X			X															
Poisonous gas Zone A	2.3		X	X	O	X		X				X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Poisonous gas Zone B	2.3		X	X	O	X		O				O	O	O	O	O	O				O
Flammable liquids	3		X	X	O	X				X	O					O		X			
Flammable solids	4.1		X			X				X	O							X			O
Spontaneously combustible materials	4.2		X	X	O	X				X	O							X			X
Dangerous when wet materials	4.3		X	X		X				X	O							X			O
Oxidizers	5.1	A	X	X		X				X	O	O						X			O

Organic peroxides	5.2	X	X		X			X	O			X		O	
Poisonous liquids PG I Zone A	6.1	X	X	O	X		O			X	X	X	X	X	X
Radioactive materials	7	X			X		O								
Corrosive liquids	8	X	X	O	X			X	O		O	X	O	O	X

(e) Instructions for using the segregation table for hazardous materials in paragraph (d) of this section are as follows:

- (1) The absence of any hazard class or division, or a blank space in the table indicates that no restrictions apply.
 - (2) The letter "X" in the table indicates that these materials may not be loaded, transported, or stored together in the same rail car or storage facility during the course of transportation.
 - (3) The letter "O" in the table indicates that these materials may not be loaded, transported, or stored together in the same rail car or storage facility during the course of transportation unless separated in a manner that, in the event of leakage from packages under conditions normally incident to transportation, commingling of hazardous materials would not occur. Notwithstanding the methods of separation employed, Class 8 (corrosive) liquids may not be loaded above or adjacent to Class 4 (flammable) or Class 5 (oxidizing) materials; except that shippers may load carload shipments of such materials together when it is known that the mixture of contents would not cause a fire or a dangerous evolution of heat or gas.
 - (4) The "*" in the table indicates that segregation among different Class 1 (explosive) materials is governed by the compatibility table in paragraph (f) of this section.
 - (5) The note "A" in the second column of the table means that, notwithstanding the requirements of the letter "X", ammonium nitrate fertilizer may be loaded or stored with Division 1.1 (explosive) or Division 1.5 materials.
 - (6) When the §172.101 table or §172.402 of this subchapter requires a package to bear a subsidiary hazard label, segregation appropriate to the subsidiary hazard must be applied when that segregation is more restrictive than that required by the primary hazard. However, hazardous materials of the same class may be loaded and transported together without regard to segregation required by any secondary hazard if the materials are not capable of reacting dangerously with each other and causing combustion or dangerous evolution of heat, evolution of flammable, poisonous, or asphyxiant gases, or formation of corrosive or unstable materials.
- (f) Class 1 (explosive) materials may not be loaded, transported, or stored together, except as provided in this section, and in accordance with the following table:

Compatibility Table For Class 1 (Explosive) Materials

Compatibility group	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	N	S
A		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
B	X		X	4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	4/5
C	X	X		2	2	X	6	X	X	X	X	3	4/5
D	X	4	2		2	X	6	X	X	X	X	3	4/5
E	X	X	2	2		X	6	X	X	X	X	3	4/5
F	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	4/5

G	X	X	6	6	6	X		X	X	X	X	X	4/5
H	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	4/5
J	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	4/5
K	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	4/5
L	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	X	X
N	X	X	3	3	3	X	X	X	X	X	X		4/5
S	X	4/5	4/5	4/5	4/5	4/5	4/5	4/5	4/5	4/5	X	4/5	

(g) Instructions for using the compatibility table for Class 1 (explosive) materials in paragraph (f) of this section are as follows:

(1) A blank space in the table indicates that no restrictions apply.

(2) The letter "X" in the table indicates that explosives of different compatibility groups may not be carried on the same rail car, unless packed in separate freight containers (e.g., two or more freight containers mounted upon the same rail car).

(3) The numbers in the table mean the following:

(i) "1" means explosives from compatibility group L may only be carried on the same rail car with an identical explosive.

(ii) "2" means any combination of explosives from compatibility group C, D, or E is assigned to compatibility group E.

(iii) "3" means any combination of explosives from compatibility group C, D, or E with those in compatibility group N is assigned to compatibility group D.

(iv) "4" means detonators and detonating primers, Division 1.4S (explosives), may not be loaded in the same car with Division 1.1 and 1.2 (explosive) materials.

(v) "5" means Division 1.4S fireworks may not be loaded in the same car with Division 1.1 or 1.2 (explosive) materials.

(vi) "6" means explosive articles in compatibility group G, other than fireworks and those requiring special stowage, may be loaded and transported with articles of compatibility groups C, D and E, provided no explosive substances are carried in the same rail car.

(h) Except as provided in paragraph (i) of this section, explosives of the same compatibility group but of different divisions may be transported together provided that the whole shipment is transported as though its entire contents were of the lower numerical division (i.e., Division 1.1 being lower than Division 1.2). For example, a mixed shipment of Division 1.2 (explosive) materials and Division 1.4 (explosive) materials, compatibility group D, must be transported as Division 1.2 (explosive) materials.

(i) When Division 1.5 materials, compatibility group D are transported in the same freight container as Division 1.2 (explosive) materials, compatibility group D, the shipment must be transported as Division 1.1 (explosive) materials, compatibility group D.

[Amdt. 174-68, 55 FR 52678, Dec. 21, 1990, as amended at 56 FR 66280-66281, Dec. 20, 1991; 57 FR 45464, Oct. 1, 1992; Amdt. 174-68, 57 FR 59310, Dec. 15, 1992; Amdt. 174-75, 58 FR 50237, Sept. 24, 1993; Amdt. 174-83, 61 FR 51339, Oct. 1, 1996; 64 FR 10781, Mar. 5, 1999; 66 FR 45383, Aug. 28, 2001; 67 15743, Apr. 3, 2002; 70 FR 3310, Jan. 24, 2005