Hazmat Pre-Trip Inspection Checklist

V3.1 · Companion to HazMat Driver Training (Add-On 2, Highway Mode)

49 CFR §107.620 · §172.602 · §177.816 · §392.7 · §393.95 · §396.11 · §396.13 · Verified against the live eCFR October 12, 2026 (Title 49 current through October 8, 2026), including the PHMSA HM-268 amendments effective September 3, 2026.

When to use this. Before every hazmat trip, in addition to your standard FMCSA pre-trip and DVIR check. This checklist surfaces only the hazmat-specific items. Walk it after the standard pre-trip; sign and keep with the day's paperwork.

A DRIVER AND VEHICLE

Driver name: _____ **CDL # and endorsements (verify HME active):** _____

Tractor unit #: _____ **Trailer / cargo-tank unit #:** _____

Date and start time: _____

B CREDENTIALS IN CAB: CONFIRM PRESENT AND CURRENT

- [ ] CDL with valid hazmat endorsement (HME)
- [ ] TSA Security Threat Assessment status (current; HME proves it)
- [ ] Medical certification current: for CDL holders it is posted on your licensing record (a paper certificate is proof only for Alaska-licensed drivers); non-CDL drivers carry the certificate
- [ ] ELDT certificate (if first-time HME within last 3 years)
- [ ] Hazmat training certificates, Core Bundle + §177.816 (within 3 years)
- [ ] Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse status: driver registered, queries current
- [ ] PHMSA Certificate of Registration, or a document showing the current "U.S. DOT Hazmat Reg. No.", aboard the truck; paper or electronic, and if electronic, saved on the device so it opens without a signal (§107.620(b))

C SHIPPING PAPERS (49 CFR PART 172, SUBPART C)

- [ ] Shipping papers received from shipper; one copy in cab, one with carrier
- [ ] Basic description present, legible, and IN ORDER (§172.202(b)): ID number → proper shipping name → hazard class/division → packing group, with nothing interspersed
- [ ] Total quantity present (§172.202(a)(5)); it sits before or after the basic description (§172.202(c)(1))
- [ ] Number and type of packages present (§172.202(a)(7)), e.g. "12 drums"
- [ ] Shipper's certification statement signed (§172.204)
- [ ] Emergency response information attached to or referenced from the shipping paper; paper or electronic, and if electronic, saved on the device and immediately available with no signal (§172.602(b)(1), electronic option since September 3, 2026)
- [ ] 24-hour emergency contact number, with PIN if used, on the shipping paper (§172.604)
- [ ] Papers within driver's reach while driving; in the door pouch or driver's seat when out of cab (§177.817)
- [ ] Tab marker or color-coded sleeve makes them findable in seconds during an incident

D PLACARDS AND MARKINGS (49 CFR PART 172, SUBPART F)

- [ ] Correct placards on all four sides: front of tractor, both sides of trailer, rear of trailer
- [ ] Placards match the shipping papers: class, division, ID number where required
- [ ] Placards undamaged, legible, securely mounted at least 3 inches from other markings (§172.516)
- [ ] Subsidiary-hazard placards present where required (§172.505)
- [ ] UN/NA ID number displayed where required (orange panel, white square-on-point, or on placard)

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- [ ] Marine pollutant marking present if applicable (Appendix B to §172.101)
- [ ] Elevated-temperature marking “HOT” present if applicable
- [ ] DANGEROUS placard analyzed correctly if mixed load (§172.504(b))

E EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT (49 CFR 393.95)

- [ ] Fire extinguisher present, charged, sealed, rated 10 B:C or more on a placarded vehicle (5 B:C non-placarded; 1.4S loads may run 5 B:C) (§393.95(a))
- [ ] Warning devices: three bidirectional reflective triangles, or at least 6 fusees where flame devices are permitted (never with Division 1.1, 1.2 or 1.3 explosives, a cargo tank used for flammable gas or flammable liquid, or a compressed-gas-fueled vehicle) (§393.95(f) and (g)). Liquid-burning flares are no longer an option (removed effective March 23, 2026).
- [ ] Current Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG 2024) in cab and accessible
- [ ] Spill cleanup material appropriate for the cargo (if carrier requires)
- [ ] First-aid kit (carrier policy / state requirements)
- [ ] Mobile phone charged; CHEMTREC 800-424-9300, NRC 800-424-8802, dispatch, and DER numbers programmed

> Removed from V1: the spare-fuses line. 49 CFR 393.95(b) was removed effective April 20, 2026; spare fuses are no longer a federal requirement. Carry them as company policy if your carrier requires.

F CARGO SECURITY

- [ ] Cargo blocked, braced, and secured per §177.834 and §392.9
- [ ] Segregation requirements observed per §177.848 (review the segregation table)
- [ ] Cargo-compartment seal numbers verified against shipping papers and intact
- [ ] Cargo-tank: dome covers / manholes secured and verified per company procedure
- [ ] Cargo-tank: bonding / grounding equipment present and inspected (§177.837)
- [ ] No packages in the cab or attached to the tractor unless your carrier’s written procedure allows it
- [ ] No package unloaded while still on the vehicle, except where §177.834(h) as amended September 3, 2026 allows it (drums, authorized IBCs, and DOT 57 portable tanks of listed materials, attended, transfer equipment inspected, bonded and grounded for Class 3, no hoses attached in transit)

G DVIR (49 CFR 396.11) AND PRE-TRIP FINDINGS

Defects noted (or “no defects”): _____

Action taken: _____

H DRIVER CERTIFICATION

I certify that I have personally inspected the items above before commencing this hazmat trip. I have verified shipping papers against placards. I will keep this checklist with the day’s paperwork. I will not depart with any item left unchecked.

DRIVER SIGNATURE _____ DATE / TIME COMPLETED _____

VERSION NOTE

Changes in V3.1 (October 12, 2026): Section B medical line restated for the electronic record (49 CFR 391.41(a)(2); paper proof is limited to Alaska-licensed drivers by the exemption renewed at 91 FR 64454, October 8, 2026). Section E warning devices line corrected: 49 CFR 393.95(f) now lists three bidirectional reflective triangles or at least 6 fusees; liquid-burning flares were removed by FMCSA final rule 91 FR 7867 (FR Doc. 2026-03261, February 19, 2026), effective March 23, 2026. Changes in V3 (September 9, 2026): Section B registration document line (49 CFR 107.620(b), electronic form allowed by HM-268I); Section C electronic option for emergency response information (49 CFR 172.602(b)(1), HM-268D); Section F cab line restated as carrier procedure, with the amended §177.834(h) unloading rule (HM-268L) stated separately.

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