

Hazardous Materials Bulletin

FUEL OIL TRANSPORTATION

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The Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations (FHMR) provides some relief for the transportation of fuel oil. The transportation must be within the United States, and the product must meet the definition of and be transported as a combustible liquid. To be classified as a combustible liquid, the material must have a flashpoint at or above 38° C (100° F).

Fuel oil meeting the above definition, and in a package having a capacity of less than 454 Liters (119 gallons) is excepted from all of the FHMR. A transport vehicle may have an unlimited number of these sized packages and still be excepted from the regulations.

Tanks with a capacity of more than 454 L (119 gallons; bulk packages) must be marked and placarded as follows:

- Proper shipping name ("Fuel Oil"; two opposing sides);
- Identification number ("1993"; two opposing sides; on the placard or an orange panel);
- Labeled on two opposing sides if less than 1,000 gallons capacity, or may be placarded on two opposing sides in lieu of labeling;

The markings noted above must be at least .24 inch wide, and if the capacity of the tank is less than 1,000 gallons, must be at least 1 inch high (§172.302(b)).

Vehicles transporting fuel oil in a bulk package must be marked and placarded as follows:

- Identification number
- Placards

If the identification number markings (on the placard or an orange panel) and the placards on the tank are visible to the outside, it is not necessary to display it again on the vehicle on that side. Any placard on the tank not visible from the direction it faces requires a placard on the vehicle.

The use of small dispensing tanks in the beds of pickup trucks and on construction equipment has become very prevalent. These tanks, which sometimes have two compartments, can be purchased at a number of hardware and farm supply stores and are generally used to fuel off-road equipment. These tanks are illegal for gasoline, but may be used for fuel oil provided all of the above provisions are met. For more information on the transportation of gasoline, see Hazardous Materials Bulletin Volume 2, Number 1 titled *Gasoline Transportation*.

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Michigan State Police – Traffic Safety Division, www.michigan.gov/motorcarrier

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