

Dangerous Good Glossary and Definitions

A

- **Absorption** - materials that may be taken into the body through the skin or lungs; taking in or reception on a molecular or chemical level involving gases or liquids
- **Acute effect** - a health effect that develops rapidly, such as exposure to carbon monoxide in a confined space
- **Alkali** - any chemical with a high pH that is bitter in water solution; strong alkalies in solution are corrosive to the skin and mucous membranes
- **Anhydrous** - free from water
- **Asphyxiant** - a vapor or gas that can cause unconsciousness or death by suffocation
- **Acid** - any chemical with a low pH that can cause damage to skin and/or tissue; neutralizes alkalis (or bases) to form salts
- **Aerosol** - Particles dispersed in a gas

B

- **Base** - a solid or liquid with a pH higher than 7

C

- **Carcinogen** - a substance or chemical that can cause cancer
- **Catalyst** - a substance or chemical that speeds up a chemical reaction
- **Central Nervous System (CNS)** - the part of the nervous system composed of the brain and spinal cord
- **Concentration** - the amount of one substance within another substance

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- **Confined space** - any area limiting natural ventilation, allowing for the accumulation of vapors and gases
- **Corrosive** - a liquid or solid that eats away another material or substance when it comes in contact with it
- **Chronic** - occurring over a substantial period of time
- **Combustion** - the process of burning
- **Container** - anything that holds material, including storage tanks, pipelines and packaging
- **Cryogenic** - a material at a very low temperature
- **Carrier** - a person engaged in transporting passengers or property by (1) land or water, (2) or civil aircraft
- **Consignee** - business or person to whom a shipment is delivered
- **CEN** - Committee on European Normalization
- **COHMED** - Cooperative Hazardous Materials Enforcement Development

D

- **Decontamination** - a chemical or physical process of reducing, removing and preventing the spread of contamination from persons and equipment use during a hazardous materials accident
- **Department of Transportation (DOT)** - department of government that regulates transportation, the transportation of shipments and the transfer of hazardous materials
- **Dilution** - method of reducing the concentration of a substance
- **Division** - a sub-category of a hazard class

E

Dangerous Good Glossary and Definitions

- **Emergency** - a sudden, urgent, usually unexpected occurrence or occasion requiring immediate attention and action
- **Emergency response plan** - written descriptions of planned actions and personnel responsibilities for emergency response actions
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** - federal agency concerned with environmental air, water and land quality
- **EPA** - United States Environmental Protection Agency
- **Exception** - a provision in the regulations that excludes a specific item of hazardous material from the requirements normally applicable to that item

F

- **Flash point** - the temperature at which a liquid will give off enough flammable vapor to burn
- **FEC** - Facility Emergency Coordinator
- **FEMA** - United States Federal Emergency Management Agency
- **FMCSR** - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations
- **Freight container** - a reusable container having a volume of 64 cubic feet or more, designed and constructed to permit being lifted with its contents intact and intended primarily for containment of packages (in unit form) during transportation
- **Fuel tank** - a tank, other than a cargo tank, used to transport flammable or combustible liquid or compressed gas for the purpose of supplying fuel for propulsion of the transport vehicle to which it is attached, or for the operation of other equipment on the transport vehicle
- **FAA** - Federal Aviation Administration

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G

- **Gram (gm)** - a metric unit of weight. One U.S. ounce is approximately 28.4 grams.
- **Gross weight** - the weight of a packaging plus the weight of its contents

H

- **Hazardous material** - any substance capable of causing harm to people, animals, property or the environment

I

- **Irritant** - a substance which causes an inflammatory response when brought into contact with the eyes, skin or respiratory system
- **Inhalation** - breathing in through the mouth or nose of a substance in the form of a gas, vapor, fume, mist or dust
- **Incident Commander (IC)** - individual responsible for the management and coordination of all incident operations
- **Insoluble** - unable to be dissolved any further
- **Intermediate bulk container (IBC)** - rigid or flexible portable packaging, other than a cylinder or portable tank, which is designed for mechanical handling. Standards for IBCs manufactured in the United States are set forth in subparts N and O §178 of the 49 CFR
- **IATA** - International Air Transport Association
- **IAEA** - International Atomic Energy Agency
- **ICAO** - International Civil Aviation Organization
- **IMDG Code** - International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code

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- **IMO** - International Maritime Organization
- **Incompatible** - describing hazardous materials which, if mixed, would be liable to cause a dangerous reaction of heat or gas or produce a corrosive substance. Substances of this nature must not be loaded or placed in a position where they can come into contact with one another

L

- **Limited quantity** - the maximum amount of a hazardous material for which there may be specific labeling or packaging exception

M

- **Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)** - informational sheet which is sent with hazardous materials, typically listing chemical properties, emergency response procedures, reactivity data, control measures, safe handling procedures and manufacturer information
- **Marking** - descriptive name, identification number, instructions, cautions, weight, specification, or UN marks or combinations thereof, required on outer packaging of hazardous materials
- **Mixture** - a material composed of more than one chemical compound or element
- **MSC** - Marine Safety Committee

N

- **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)** - a federal research agency responsible for issues related to occupational safety and health

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- **Neurotoxin** - a substance that is toxic to the brain and nerves
- **NFPA** - National Fire Protection Association
- **NIOSH** - United States National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
- **Non-flammable** - not capable of being burned under normal circumstances
- **N.O.S.** - Not otherwise specified
- **NAFTA** - North American Free Trade Agreement
- **NAFTA LTSS** - NAFTA Land Transportation Standards Subcommittee

O

- **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)** - a federal agency responsible for creating and enforcing laws related to occupational safety and health
- **Oxidation** - a reaction where a substance combines with oxygen, the oxygen being provided by an oxidizer or oxidizing agent
- **Oxidizer** - a substance that gives up oxygen readily to stimulate the combustion of organic matter
- **OSHA** - United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- **OECD** - Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- **Overpack** - an enclosure used by a single shipper to contain one or more packages and to form one handling unit for convenience of handling and stowage

P

- **Permeation** - process by which a chemical dissolves in or moves through a protective clothing material on a molecular level

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- **Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL)** - the highest level of a substance to which a person can be exposed, set by OSHA
- **pH** - applies to liquids. A pH less than 7 is considered an acid. A pH equal to 7 is neutral. A pH greater than 7 is considered an alkaline (or base)
- **Pulmonary toxin** - toxic to the lungs
- **Peroxide** - chemicals that contain two oxygen atoms bonded together, often explosive
- **Package** - complete product of the packaging operation consisting of the packaging and contents prepared for transportation
- **Packaging** - receptacles and other components necessary for the receptacle to perform its containment function
- **Packing group** - an indication of the relative degree of danger presented by various articles and substances within a class or division
- **Proper shipping name** - the name to be used to describe a particular article or substance in all shipping documents and notification and, where appropriate, on packaging

R

- **Risk** - a measure of the chances that damage life, property or the environment if a hazard occurs
- **RSPA** - Research and Special Programs Administration, United States Department of Transportation

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S

- **Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)** - written descriptions of tasks and activities to be followed during work
- **SCBA** - Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

T

- **Technical name** - a recognized chemical name or microbiological name currently used in scientific and technical handbooks, journals and texts
- **Transport vehicle** - a cargo carrying vehicle such as an automobile, van, tractor, truck, semi-trailer, tank car, or rail car used for the transportation of cargo by any mode

U

- **United Nations' Identification Number (UN Number)** - a number used internationally to identify a hazardous material
- **UN standard packaging** - a specification packaging conforming to the standards in the UN recommendations
- **UN** - United Nations
- **UN ECOSOC** - United Nations Economic and Social Council
- **UNCED** - United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

V

- **Vapor** - gaseous form of a substance normally in liquid or solid state at room temperature

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- **Viscosity** - the amount of resistance to flow, related to liquids

W

- **WHO** - World Health Organization
- **WSO** - World Safety Organization

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