**Marking of containers carrying dangerous cargoes**

### 1) Placarding Requirements on Dangerous Goods.

Placards (enlarged labels) (minimum size **250 mm x 250 mm**) and, if applicable for maritime transport, "MARINE POLLUTANT" marks (minimum size of a side 250 mm) and other signs should be affixed to the exterior surfaces of a CTU or unit load or overpack to provide a warning that the contents of the unit are dangerous cargoes and present risks, unless the labels, marks or signs affixed to the packages are clearly visible from the exterior of the unit. This type of marking can be omitted on unit loads and over packs if the hazard labels, markings or warning symbols are clearly visible from the outside.

A Cargo transport unit containing dangerous goods or residues of dangerous goods shall clearly display placards as follows:

a) A freight container, semi-trailer or portable tank: one on each side and one on each end of the unit;

b) A railway wagon: at least on each side;

c) A multiple-compartment tank containing more than one dangerous substance or their residues: along each side at the positions of the relevant compartments; and

d) Any other cargo transport unit: at least on both sides and on the back of the unit.

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**Correct marking of a container for maritime transport according to the IMDG Code guidelines.**

It has been proposed to mark the roof with a corresponding placard, in order to warn lifting gear or ground conveyor operators when picking up such a container. However, the regulations do not as yet contain any such obligation.

**Note:** Placards on the sides of a CTU should be affixed in such a position that they are not obscured when the unit doors are opened.
**Example 1.** The container is loaded with Class 4.1 flammable solids. (Below)

![Correct marking on a container side](image1)

**Example 2.** The container is loaded with Class 5.1 (Oxidizing substances), UN2880 (Below)

![Non-regulation affixing of a placard](image2)

**Example 3.** Wrong positioning of placard since the placards, hazard labels, markings or warning symbols on the outsides of the CTU should not be obscured when the CTU is opened. (Below)
2) **Subsidiary Risk.**

Whenever dangerous cargoes present several risks, subsidiary risk placards should be displayed in addition to primary risk placards.

However, the cargo transport units containing goods more than one class need not bear a subsidiary risk placard if the hazard represented by that placard is already indicated by a primary risk placard.

**Example 4) Subsidiary Risk**

![Dangerous cargo container carrying dangerous goods of various classes](image-url)
Example 5)

Correct: 4,000 kg consignment with hazardous materials, therefore UN number stated

Correct: < 4,000 kg consignment with hazardous materials, therefore UN number not stated

Example 6)

Incorrect: > 4,000 kg consignment with hazardous materials, no UN number stated

Correct: two classes, therefore no UN Number (the placard is obsolete and class 6.1 has since been replaced with a death’s head and the word "Toxic").
4) Displaying of PSN (Proper Shipping Name)

The PSN of the contents shall be durably marked on at least both sides of:
   a) Tank transport units containing dangerous goods;
   b) Bulk containers containing dangerous goods; or
   c) Any other cargo transport unit containing dangerous goods of a single commodity for which no placard, UN Number or marine pollutant mark is required. Alternatively, the UN Number may be displayed.

5) Marine pollutant mark

Cargo transport units containing marine pollutants shall clearly display the marine pollutant mark in locations indicated in (1) above, even if the cargo transport unit contains packages not required to bear the marine pollutant mark. The New mark shall be coloured black and white and shall have sides of at least 250mm.

Example 7)
Marine pollutant mark

6) Limited Quantities

Cargo transport units containing dangerous goods in only limited quantities need not be placarded nor marked according to (3) & (4) above. They shall, however, be suitably marked on the exterior as “LIMITED QUANTITIES” or “LTD QTY” not less than 65mm high in locations indicated in (1) above.

7) Fumigated Units

   a) The marking of the PSN (Fumigated Unit) and the UN Number (UN 3359) is not required on fumigated units. However, if a fumigated unit is loaded with dangerous goods, any mark required by the provisions in (4) and (6) above shall be marked on the fumigated unit.
   b) Class 9 placards shall not be affixed to a fumigated unit except as required for other class 9 substances or articles packed therein.
   c) A fumigated unit shall be marked with the warning sign, as mentioned in Example 8, below, affixed in a location where it will be easily seen by persons attempting to enter
the interior of the unit. The marking, as required by this paragraph, shall remain on the unit until the following provisions are met:

i) the fumigated unit has been ventilated to remove harmful concentrations of fumigant gas; and

ii) The fumigated goods or materials have been unloaded.

d) The fumigation warning sign shall be rectangular and shall be not less than 300mm wide and 250mm high. The markings shall be in black print on a white background with lettering not less than 25mm high.

Example 8)