


Hazardous Material Code Identification

NFPA 704, 1996 Edition

Identification of Health Hazard Color Code: BLUE		Identification of Flammability Color Code: RED		Identification of Reactivity Stability Color Code: YELLOW	
Type of Possible Injury		Susceptibility of Materials to Burning		Susceptibility to Release of Energy	
Signal		Signal		Signal	
4	Materials that, under emergency conditions, can be lethal.	4	Materials which will rapidly or completely vaporize at atmospheric pressure and normal ambient temperature, or which are readily dispersed in air and which will burn readily.	4	Materials that in themselves are readily capable of detonation or of explosive decomposition or explosive reaction at normal temperature and pressures, are shock sensitive and react explosively with water.
3	Materials that, under emergency conditions, can cause serious or permanent injury.	3	Liquids and solids that can be ignited under almost all ambient temperature conditions.	3	Materials that in themselves are capable of detonation or explosive reaction but require a strong initiating source or which must be heated under confinement before initiation, are shock sensitive or which react explosively with water.
2	Materials that, under emergency conditions, can cause temporary incapacitation or residual injury.	2	Materials that must be moderately heated or exposed to relatively high ambient temperature before ignition can occur.	2	Materials that readily undergo violent chemical change at elevated temperatures and pressures. Also materials which may react violently with water or which may form potentially explosive mixtures with water.
1	Materials that, under emergency conditions, can cause significant irritation.	1	Material that must be preheated before ignition can occur.	1	Materials that in themselves are normally stable, but which can become unstable at elevated temperatures and pressures or which may react vigorously with water. Also materials that change or decompose with exposure to air, light or moisture.
0	Materials that, under emergency conditions, would offer no hazard.	0	Materials that will not burn.	0	Materials that in themselves are normally stable, even under fire exposure conditions, and which are not reactive with water.
SPECIAL (WHITE)					
W	REACTS VIOLENTLY OR IN A DANGEROUS MANNER WITH WATER.				
D	REQUIRES SPECIAL DISPOSAL				
OX	SUBSTANCE YIELDS OXYGEN TO SUPPORT COMBUSTION. REACTS TO OXIDIZE FUELS OR COMBUSTIBLES.				
COR	ACID, ALKALI OR OTHER MATERIALS THAT WILL CAUSE SEVERE DAMAGE TO LIVING TISSUE.				
	MATERIALS POSSESSING RADIOACTIVITY HAZARDS.				

The identification systems are focused on the hazards of the materials under fire or spill conditions. This system is used only for the storage of chemicals and may be set up in a number of different designs. The color and number codes are as described above. The hazard number ratings will be either inserted into, or placed next to or below the corresponding colored box. Examples of the various identification systems that may be seen on bottles, drums or other containers are shown below:

