



# CHECK THE BOX



## CHECK THE BOX<sup>®</sup> BEFORE SHIPPING STRIKE-ANYWHERE MATCHES!



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Pipeline and  
Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration



[WWW.PHMSA.DOT.GOV](http://WWW.PHMSA.DOT.GOV)



## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STRIKE-ANYWHERE MATCHES?

- **Strike-anywhere** are matches that can be ignited by friction on a solid surface – like safety matches, they are considered hazardous materials (HAZMAT) for shipping purposes.
- Unlike safety matches, **strike-anywhere matches** are prohibited for transport by the United States Postal Service (USPS)!
- But they can be shipped using other common carriers if you follow the requirements of the United States Department of Transportation’s (US DOT) Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR), which require specific packaging, package marks and labels, training, and more.
- There are civil and potentially criminal penalties for non-compliance!

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO SHIP STRIKE-ANYWHERE MATCHES?

- **Declare them to the carrier**
  - Strike-anywhere matches must be declared as HAZMAT. The basic description for shipping these materials is “UN1331, Matches, strike anywhere, 4.1, PGIII.”
- **Package them according to HMR requirements**
  - Inner packaging: Strike-anywhere matches must be tightly packed in securely closed chipboard, fiberboard, wooden, or metal inner packagings to prevent accidental ignition during transport. Each inner packaging may contain no more than 700 strike-anywhere matches.



- Outer packaging: Inner packagings must be packed in outer packages rated to hold HAZMAT. This means that the outer packages must be UN-specification packaging rated to the appropriate packing group--in this case, PGIII.
- Authorized outer packaging types are: steel drums, aluminum drums, other metal drums, steel jerricans, aluminum jerricans, steel, aluminum, other metal boxes, wooden, plywood, reconstituted wood or fiberboard boxes, plywood or fiber drums.

### What about training?

If you are selling and shipping strike-anywhere matches, you must receive training in the HMR requirements.

Training requirements are located in Subpart H of Part 172 of the HMR. There are materials that clarify training requirements available at:

<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/training/hazmat/hazmat-transportation-requirements-pdf>

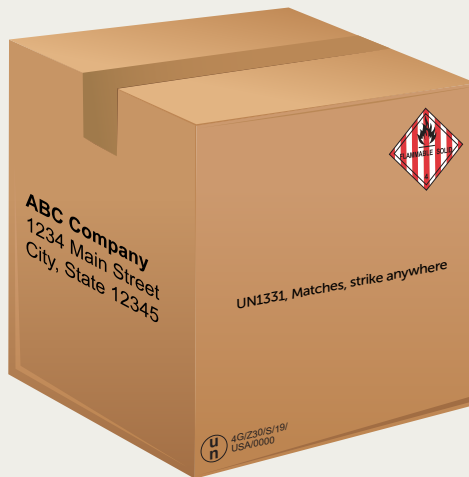
**Note:** Many common carriers may require training in order to set up a HAZMAT shipping account with them, regardless of whether you are selling strike-anywhere matches.

- Gross weight of fiberboard boxes must not exceed 30 kg (66 pounds). Gross weight of other outer packagings must not exceed 45 kg (100 pounds).

**You can find these packaging requirements in § 173.186 of the HMR!**

- **Apply the appropriate hazard communication to the box**

- Packages of strike-anywhere matches must display the appropriate HAZMAT markings and labels. This includes: the UN ID number, proper shipping name, consignor/consignee name and address, and the Division 4.1 Flammable Solid label.



**You can find marking requirements in subpart D of part 172 of the HMR – labeling requirements can be found in subpart E of part 172 of the HMR!**

## HOW CAN I HELP ENSURE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY?

### Remember:

- If you are shipping strike-anywhere matches, you are shipping HAZMAT
- Never ship strike-anywhere matches via USPS, and always ship in compliance with the HMR using other carriers
- Spread awareness that strike-anywhere matches are hazardous materials when transported
- Report incidents when you encounter them, either to the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) or PHMSA, as appropriate

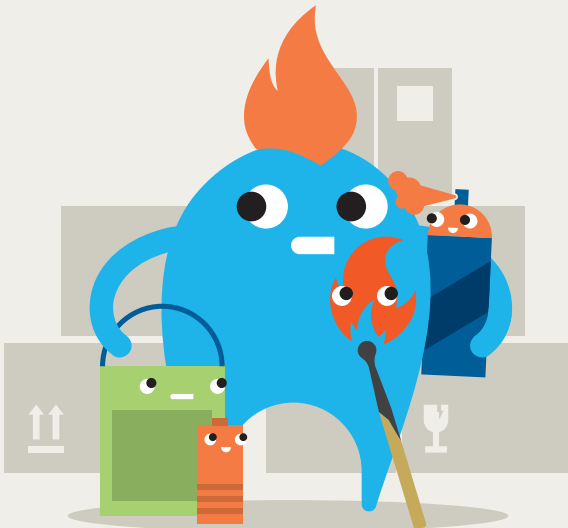
## WHERE CAN I GO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

- US DOT's Check the Box® campaign website:
  - <https://www.transportation.gov/check-the-box>
- USPS:
  - <https://www.uspsdelivers.com/hazmat-shipping-safety>
- Additional compliance resources:
  - <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/training/hazmat/hazardous-materials-outreach-engagement>

## WHO CAN I TALK TO ABOUT SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS?

- The Hazardous Materials Information Center is available M-F, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET for live one-on-one assistance with any questions on shipping requirements. Find their contact information here: <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/standards-rulemaking/hazmat/hazardous-materials-information-center>
- Your regional Community Liaison is also available for compliance assistance! Find yours here: <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/training/hazmat/hazardous-materials-safety-assistance-team-hmsat>

*This guide is intended only to provide information to the public regarding existing requirements under the Hazardous Materials Regulations. This guide does not have the force and effect of law and is not meant to bind the public in any way.*



**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

The Hazardous Materials Info Center  
1-800-HMR-4922  
(1-800-467-4922)  
Email: [infocntr@dot.gov](mailto:infocntr@dot.gov)  
<https://phmsa.dot.gov>

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
Outreach, Engagement, and Grants Division  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
Email: [training@dot.gov](mailto:training@dot.gov)  
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