



Dry Ice Fact Sheet for Shippers & Freight Forwarders

Did you know dry ice is a dangerous good and regulated for air transportation? When shipping or handling shipments of perishable items, such as **food products, pet food, medicines, medical specimens or health and wellness products with dry ice by aircraft**, you must comply with the **Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR)**. Please know that most express and expedited shipments will likely end up on an aircraft. As a shipper or freight forwarder, you must ensure dry ice is properly prepared and declared to the air carrier. The safety of the aircraft and crew depends on it.

What is the hazard?

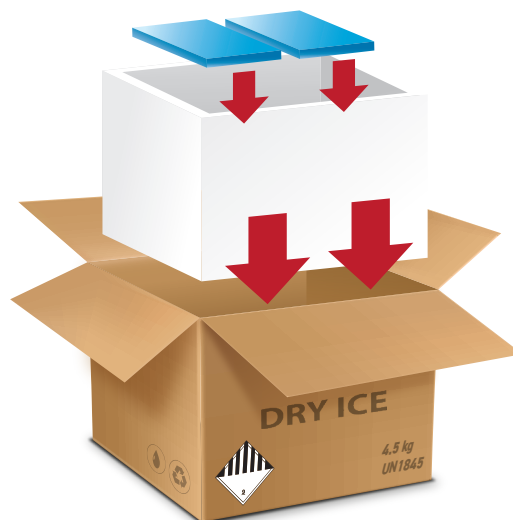
- Dry ice is carbon dioxide in solid form. Dry ice releases carbon dioxide gas and can overwhelm ventilation systems on an aircraft, putting the crew and passengers at risk.
- Air carriers make suitable arrangements to carry specific quantities of dry ice based on the aircraft type, aircraft ventilation rates, methods of packing and stowing, whether animals will be carried on the same flight, and other factors.

What do I need to do?

- Shippers, or freight forwarders handling these logistics, must arrange with their air carrier before each dry ice shipment.
- Shippers, or freight forwarders acting on their behalf, must follow the specific packaging and hazard communication requirements, as found in [§ 173.217 of the HMR](#), as well as any additional guidance from the air carrier.

How do I need to package the dry ice?

- Any packaging used must be designed to permit the release of the carbon dioxide gas that off-gasses from dry ice. This helps prevent a build-up of pressure that could cause the package to rupture.
- You must also follow any additional packing instructions from your air carrier.



What about package markings?

- For amounts of dry ice not exceeding 2.5 kg (5.5 lbs.) in a package being used as a refrigerant for package contents, the package needs to be marked with: "Carbon Dioxide, solid" or "Dry Ice," the name of the package contents being cooled, and the net weight of the dry ice or an indication that the net weight of dry ice is 2.5 kg (5.5 lbs.) or less.

What if I am shipping more than 2.5 kg (5.5 lbs.)?

- Quantities exceeding 2.5 kg (5.5 lbs.) are fully regulated as dangerous goods. Hazmat employee training on the HMR is required. Additional package markings and labels are required.
- You can refer to the SafeCargo page on [Training for Shippers & E-Commerce](#) for more details.



As a freight forwarder, how do I know if a package contains dry ice if a shipper has not declared that to me?

- Keep an eye out for product keywords that could indicate the presence of dry ice – for example: 'food items,' 'pet food,' 'contents being cooled,' 'perishable,' 'frozen,' 'refrigerated,' or 'medical specimens.'
- Consider processes and controls in your operations to recognize, identify, and refuse or accept dry ice. If you choose to handle and ship dry ice, you must comply with the dry ice shipping requirements, including hazmat employee training for shipments of dry ice in quantities exceeding 2.5 kg (5.5 lbs.).
- Dry ice is not regulated as dangerous goods for ground shipments, so be mindful of this when interlining shipments between ground and air modes. A package offered initially by ground might not have any hazard markings or labels. Any package provided to an air carrier must fully comply with air shipping requirements.
- If you discover undeclared dry ice in transportation, you must [report](#) the incident to the Department of Transportation.

Questions?

- You may contact the FAA Office of Hazardous Materials Safety via e-mail at hazmatinfo@faa.gov or via voice message at 405-954-0088.

