



The Mexican official standard NOM-043-SCT/2003¹ regulates the content of the Shipping Document, which must accompany all Dangerous Goods shipments. In line with the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods – Model Regulations, emergency response information must be provided.

Relating to the provision of emergency response information, Paragraph 5.7 of the NOM-043-SCT/2003 states that the relevant information must be immediately available at all times for use in emergency response to accidents and incidents involving the transportation of hazardous materials. This information must be available in a bag or folder, accessible to the driver, separated from the containers and packaging that contain hazardous materials and immediately accessible in the event of an accident or incident. The emergency response information must consist of:

- a) Appropriate entries on the Shipping Document.
- b) Appropriate designations on the Shipping Document.
- c) Provision of a separate document, such as:
 - The “Emergency Fact Sheet for the Transportation of Hazardous Substances, Materials and Waste” and / or the “North American Emergency Response Guidebook”
 - A Safety Data Sheet (“Hoja de Seguridad”)
 - The “Emergency Response Guidance for Aircrafts Incidents Involving Dangerous Goods” from the International Aviation Organization (ICAO).
 - The “Emergency Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods” (EmS) and the “Medical First Aid Guide in Accidents Involving Dangerous Goods” (MFAG) from the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

For land and sea transport, the standard does not specify the need for an emergency number on the Shipping Document however many actors in the transport chain will expect to see an emergency number on the Shipping Document. For air transport the standard does not specify the need for an emergency number on the Shipping Document however, state and operator variations in the International Air Transport Association Dangerous Goods Regulations (IATA DGR) will in most cases require an emergency number to be displayed on the Shipping Document.

The best practice, and CHEMTREC's recommendation, is to always display an emergency number on the Shipping Document for all modes of transport.

Emergency Fact Sheet for the Transportation of Hazardous Substances, Materials and Waste

The Mexican official standard NOM-005-SCT/2008² regulates the content of the Emergency Fact Sheet. Three sets of emergency numbers must be displayed:

- The emergency number of the organization offering the Dangerous Goods for transport, i.e. importer, supplier, distributor, generator (for waste), or shipper. The emergency number must be a Mexican number, while the standard does not specify the language, it is implied that it should be answered in Spanish.
- The emergency number of the transporter. The emergency number must be a Mexican based number, while the standard does not specify the language, it is implied that it should be answered in Spanish.
- The emergency numbers for the National System for emergencies, which must be notified immediately in case of an incident, namely CENACOM, SETIQ, COATEA, and, for radioactive materials, CONASENUSA.

North American Emergency Response Guidebook

The Mexican official standard NOM-005-SCT/2008 states that if the Emergency Fact Sheet is not available, the relevant information from the North American Emergency Response Guidebook can be used instead. The standard does not specify the need for an emergency number beyond those listed in the Emergency Response Guidebook. Nonetheless, the best practice, and CHEMTREC's recommendation, is to display an emergency number.

¹NORMA Oficial Mexicana NOM-043-SCT/2003, Documento de embarque de sustancias, materiales y residuos peligrosos

²NORMA Oficial Mexicana NOM-005-SCT/2008, Información de emergencia para el transporte de sustancias, materiales y residuos peligrosos.

Safety Data Sheet

Mexico has adopted the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), which requires an emergency number to be listed in section 1 of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). This does not need to be a 24-hour number but where the hours of operation are limited, they must be stated on the SDS. If the type of response is limited, e.g., medical emergencies only, this should also be stated.

In addition to the GHS requirements above, the Mexican Official Standard NOM-018-STPS-2015³ stipulates that the emergency number must be a Mexican based telephone number. The standard does not specify the language, but it is implied that it should be answered in Spanish.

For more information and to learn how to reach compliance, please contact sales@chemtrec.com.

DISCLAIMER

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³NORMA Oficial Mexicana NOM-018-STPS-2015, Sistema armonizado para la identificación y comunicación de peligros y riesgos por sustancias químicas peligrosas en los centros de trabajo.