Routing Decision Chart

Colorado State Patrol Communications Centers
24 Hours Emergency Phone Numbers
Alamosa (719) 589-5807
Craig (970) 824-6501
Durango (970) 239-4691
Montrose (970) 249-4392
Pueblo (719) 544-2424

Are you transporting hazardous materials that require your vehicle to be placarded?

Colorado State Patrol
Hazardous Materials Unit
(303) 273-1900
https://www.colorado.gov/csps/hazardous-materials

Nuclear Materials Routing Exceptions

Nuclear Materials are defined as a highway route controlled quantity of radioactive materials, in 420-402, CRS. When transporting a Nuclear Material, carriers are required to remain on designated nuclear material routes. Carriers are not to deviate from designated nuclear materials routes except under certain circumstances:
- Carriers may deviate from designated routes in order to make local pick-ups or deliveries;
- Carriers may deviate from designated routes when continued use of the route is unsafe;
- Carriers may deviate from designated routes in order to refuel;
- Carriers may deviate from designated routes when the route is closed due to road conditions, road construction, or maintenance operations.

When an emergency condition exists or when the designated nuclear materials route closed due to adverse weather conditions, or other circumstances, the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) may designate an alternative route. The CSP requires nuclear materials be escorted while off the designated route. Carriers must contact the nearest CSP Communications Center for instructions prior to deviating from a designated route.

There are exceptions to the definition of nuclear materials. These exceptions remove the materials described from the routing requirements discussed earlier. Nuclear Materials, as defined in 420-402, CRS, do not include:
- Nuclear materials used for research or medical purposes within Colorado. A Highway Route Control Quantity (HRCQ) of radioactive material used to irradiate medical supplies and equipment is not considered to be "used for medical purposes" and is therefore required to abide by the nuclear material routing rules;
- Radioactive materials transported as ores or products from mining, milling, smelting, or similar processing of ores, and mineral-bearing materials;
- Radioactive materials utilized in national security activities under the direct control of the Department of Defense; radioactive materials under the direct control of the Department of Energy used in carrying out atomic energy defense activities as defined in the federal "Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982," 42 USC 10101 at seq.

Finally, carriers transporting nuclear materials shall be familiar with the rules and regulations adopted by the Colorado State Patrol and published under 8 CCR 1507-25. Additionally, the carrier is required to comply with the provisions of 49 CFR 397.10(2).

Hazardous Materials Routing

As a general rule, vehicles carrying an amount of hazardous materials that require placards, must remain on designated hazardous materials routes. There are some exceptions to the rule:
- You may leave an authorized route in order to service a vehicle;
- You may leave an authorized route for local pickup or delivery of hazardous materials;
- You may leave an authorized route due to emergencies that would make continued use of the route unsafe;
- You may leave an authorized route when it is closed pursuant to 420-20304, CRS.

A person transporting hazardous materials may make successive local pickups and deliveries without returning to the route between deliveries, when returning to the route is unreasonable.

Agricultural products other than Class 2 materials as defined in 49 CFR, over local roads between fields of the same farm, are exempted from the statutory requirements when transported by a farmer who is an intrastate private motor carrier and the movement of the agricultural product is in compliance with 49 CFR 173.5 and 420-108.5, CRS.

Some motor vehicles that are carrying hazardous materials, even amounts that may require placards, are not subject to the routing requirements. Vehicles carrying materials described in Table 2 of 49 CFR 172.504 in the following configurations:
- Quantities of less than 500 gallons of Table 2 hazardous materials;
- Table 2 hazardous materials in containers of five gallons or less;
- Table 2 hazardous materials when they are packaged as consumer commodities as defined in 49 CFR.

Additionally, motor vehicles that are transporting ores, the products from mining, milling, smelting, or similar processing of ores, and the wastes and byproducts from those processes are subject to the routing requirements as defined in 49 CFR 173.88 when the aggregate amount of flash powder does not exceed fifty pounds, are exempted from the requirements of routing.