FREE SAMPLE

CDL Hazmat Endorsement Study Guide 2026-2027

For the CDL hazardous materials (H) endorsement knowledge test, first try or retake.

In this sample

- The contents of the full book.
- The first two pages of Chapter 1, as printed in the book.
- The first 12 drill questions, as printed in the book, each with its answer, reason and citation.

These pages are taken unchanged from the book. The practice tests and their answer keys are not in this sample.

The full book

270 pages: 12 chapters, 310 drill questions with their answers right under them, 4 practice tests of 30 with answer keys, a quick reference of 53 numbers and a 14-day study plan. Every answer is cited to 49 CFR or the TSA's program page. PDF and EPUB at sourcedprep.com.

Independent study aid. Not affiliated with or endorsed by any exam provider or government agency. The questions are original; they are not questions from the exam.

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Chapter 1: The H endorsement: who needs it, the knowledge test and the TSA threat assessment

1. Who needs the H endorsement

Your State issues CDL endorsements, and it issues them only to drivers who complete the tests. You need the hazardous materials (H) endorsement to drive a commercial motor vehicle used to transport hazardous materials.

TSA gives a plainer rule of thumb in its program guidance. TSA says you should apply if you hold a State-issued CDL and you must transport materials that require placarding under the Department of Transportation hazardous materials rules. This is TSA guidance, not regulation text.

If you are getting an H endorsement for the first time, the entry-level driver training rules apply to you. An entry-level driver is someone who must complete the CDL skills test requirements before obtaining a hazardous materials endorsement for the first time. Before you take the knowledge test for that endorsement, you must complete training from a provider listed on FMCSA's Training Provider Registry.

The training rule does not reach every H endorsement. Drivers issued an H endorsement before February 7, 2022 are not required to comply with that subpart for that endorsement.

> REMEMBER
>
> - Your State issues the H endorsement only after you pass the tests.
> - The endorsement applies to vehicles used to transport hazardous materials.
> - TSA says to apply if you must transport placarded materials.
> - First-time H applicants need training from a provider on FMCSA's Training Provider Registry.
> - An H endorsement issued before February 7, 2022 is outside that training rule.

2. What the knowledge test covers

The knowledge test checks that you have the knowledge a driver of a hazardous materials laden vehicle needs. That knowledge comes from 49 CFR parts 171, 172, 173, 177, 178 and 397. The rule groups the topics into five areas, shown in the table.

AREA (RULE PARAGRAPH)	WHAT IT COVERS
(a) Hazardous materials regulations	Hazardous materials table, shipping papers, marking, labeling, placarding, packaging, definitions and preparation, other regulated material such as ORM-D, reporting accidents, tunnels and railroad crossings
(b) Hazardous materials handling	Forbidden materials and packages, loading and unloading, cargo segregation, passenger-carrying buses, attendance, parking, routes, cargo tanks, “Safe havens”
(c) Emergency equipment	Using equipment to protect the public, fires, loading and unloading, tank vehicles
(d) Emergency response	Special care for different accidents, driving near a fire, smoking, emergency procedures, special requirements for Class 1.1 and 1.2 explosives
(e) Operating practices	Practices and procedures not otherwise specified

Use the table as a list of topics. The rules inside those topics are in the parts named above.

Two items are easy to skip. The rule lists “Safe havens” as its own handling topic. It also lists the existence of special requirements for transporting Class 1.1 and 1.2 explosives. You should know that those special requirements exist.

> REMEMBER
>
> - The test draws on 49 CFR parts 171, 172, 173, 177, 178 and 397.
> - The five areas are regulations, handling, emergency equipment, emergency response and operating practices.
> - “Safe havens” is a handling topic in its own right.
> - Class 1.1 and 1.2 explosives have special requirements that you must know exist.

Endorsement, security and training

Chapters 1 and 12 · 20 questions

1. A carrier hires a new hazmat employee. Under 49 CFR 172.704(a), within how many days after employment must that employee receive security awareness training?

A. One year after employment

B. 180 days

C. 30 days

D. 90 days

> **Answer: D.** The rule requires new hazmat employees to receive security awareness training within 90 days after employment. The one-year option is the most tempting, but the text does not allow a year for this training. The 30-day and 180-day figures are not in the rule either. See 49 CFR 172.704(a).

2. How often must a hazmat employee receive the training required by 49 CFR 172.704, at minimum?

A. At least once every three years

B. Once every five years

C. Once every ten years

D. Only once, at the time of hire, with no further training

> **Answer: A.** The rule says recurrent training must be received at least once every three years. The five-year option is the most tempting wrong answer, because a five-year cycle is longer than the three-year limit the text sets. Training only at hire, or only every ten years, also fails the recurrent requirement. See 49 CFR 172.704(c).

3. Which item must a hazmat employer's record of current training include, under 49 CFR 172.704(d)?

A. The most recent training completion date

B. The employee's Social Security number

C. The driver's vehicle inspection history for the last three years

D. The driver's CDL expiration date

> **Answer: A.** The rule lists what the training record must include: the employee's name, the most recent training completion date, a description or location of the training materials, the name and address of the trainer, and a certification that the

employee was trained and tested. The CDL date, Social Security number and inspection history are not in that list. See 49 CFR 172.704(d).

4. Under 49 CFR 172.701(b), a State's more stringent hazmat training rules for motor vehicle drivers may apply to which drivers?

A. Drivers holding a hazmat endorsement from another State

B. Only drivers domiciled in that State

C. All drivers who enter the State

D. Only drivers of cargo tanks

Answer: B. The rule limits a State's stricter driver training rules to drivers domiciled in that State. Drivers who only enter the State, or who hold an endorsement from another State, fall outside that limit. The cargo tank option is wrong because the rule sets no cargo tank limit. See 49 CFR 172.701(b).

5. Under 49 CFR 172.800(b), which hazardous material requires a transportation security plan in any quantity?

A. A Division 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3 material

B. A small quantity of Division 2.1 flammable gas

C. A small quantity of Class 3 flammable liquid in Packing Group III

D. A small quantity of Class 8 corrosive material in Packing Group II

Answer: A. Paragraph (b)(1) requires a security plan for any quantity of a Division 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3 material. The Division 2.1, Class 3 and Class 8 entries apply only to a large bulk quantity, and the Class 3 and Class 8 entries also name specific packing groups. Small quantities of those materials are not covered by the rule. See 49 CFR 172.800(b).

6. How often must a hazmat transportation security plan be reviewed, under 49 CFR 172.802(c)?

A. Every three years

B. At least annually

C. Only when a new shipper begins service

D. Every five years

Answer: B. The rule says the security plan must be reviewed at least annually and revised or updated as necessary. A review every three or five years does not meet that requirement. The new-shipper option is wrong because the rule ties the review to a yearly cycle, not to a new customer. See 49 CFR 172.802(c).

7. Under 49 CFR 177.816(b), what portable tank capacity makes the specialized driver training apply?

A. 500 gallons or more

B. Any capacity

C. 2,000 gallons or more, measured by the tank's rated water capacity

D. 1,000 gallons or more

> **Answer: D.** The rule applies the specialized training to a person who operates a vehicle with a portable tank with a capacity of 1,000 gallons or more. The 2,000-gallon option is the most tempting, but the text sets 1,000 gallons. The any-capacity option is wrong for portable tanks, because the text sets a capacity threshold. See 49 CFR 177.816(b).

8. Under 49 CFR 380.603(b), which drivers do not have to comply with the entry-level driver training subpart for their endorsement?

A. Drivers issued an H endorsement on or after February 7, 2022

B. Drivers issued a hazardous materials (H) endorsement before February 7, 2022

C. Drivers who obtain a CLP on or after February 7, 2022

D. Drivers issued a school bus (S) endorsement on or after February 7, 2022

> **Answer: B.** Drivers issued a hazardous materials (H) endorsement before February 7, 2022 are exempt from this subpart for that endorsement. The on-or-after option reverses the date rule, and the school bus or passenger option reverses it too. Individuals who obtain a CLP on or after February 7, 2022 are required to comply, so that option is also wrong. See 49 CFR 380.603(b).

9. Under 49 CFR 383.93(b), which use of a commercial motor vehicle requires a State-issued endorsement?

A. Driving a vehicle with an automatic transmission

B. Used to transport hazardous materials as defined in § 383.5

C. Operating a vehicle with air brakes only

D. Carrying general freight on a single straight truck with a gross weight over 26,000 pounds

> **Answer: B.** The rule requires a State-issued endorsement for a commercial motor vehicle used to transport hazardous materials as defined in section 383.5. Automatic transmissions and air brakes are not endorsement triggers in this rule, and general freight is not listed. Those options are wrong for the reasons the list gives. See 49 CFR 383.93(b).

10. Under 49 CFR 383.141(b), which condition lets a State issue or renew a hazmat endorsement?

A. A completed air brake knowledge test

B. Three years with no moving violations

C. A valid passport alone

D. The individual holds a valid TWIC

> **Answer: D.** The rule lets a State issue, renew, upgrade or transfer an HME when TSA has determined the individual does not pose a security risk, or when the individual holds a valid TWIC. A passport, a clean driving record and an air brake test are not listed conditions. See 49 CFR 383.141(b).

11. Under 49 CFR 383.135(a), what score must a driver applicant reach on each knowledge test to pass?

A. At least 90 percent of the questions correct on the first attempt

B. At least 70 percent of the questions correct

C. At least 75 percent of the questions correct

D. At least 80 percent of the questions correct

> **Answer: D.** The rule sets the passing score for each knowledge test at 80 percent of the questions answered correctly. The 70, 75 and 90 percent figures are not the passing standard in this rule. See 49 CFR 383.135(a).

12. How often must a State require hazardous materials endorsements to be renewed, under 49 CFR 383.141(d)?

A. Every five years or less

B. Every ten years

C. Only when the CDL is replaced

D. Every seven years

> **Answer: A.** The rule requires renewal every 5 years or less, so that each individual goes through TSA screening at least every 5 years. Seven-year and ten-year cycles are longer than the text allows. Renewal only when the CDL is replaced is not what the rule says. See 49 CFR 383.141(d).