

(5) *Division 1.5*¹ consists of very insensitive explosives. This division is comprised of substances which have a mass explosion hazard but are so insensitive that there is very little probability of initiation or of transition from burning to detonation under normal conditions of transport.

(6) *Division 1.6*² consists of extremely insensitive articles which do not have a mass explosive hazard. This division is comprised of articles which contain only extremely insensitive detonating substances and which demonstrate a negligible probability of accidental initiation or propagation.

[Amdt. 173-224, 55 FR 52617 Dec. 21, 1990, as amended at 56 FR 66267, Dec. 20, 1991; 66 FR 45183, Aug. 28, 2001; 68 FR 48569, Aug. 14, 2003]

§ 173.51 Authorization to offer and transport explosives.

(a) Unless otherwise provided in this subpart, no person may offer for transportation or transport an explosive, unless it has been tested and classed and approved by the Associate Administrator (§ 173.56).

(b) Reports of explosives approved by the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy must be filed with, and receive acknowledgement in writing by, the Associate Administrator

prior to such explosives being offered for transportation.

[Amdt. 173-224, 55 FR 52617, Dec. 21, 1990, as amended by 66 FR 45379, Aug. 28, 2001]

§ 173.52 Classification codes and compatibility groups of explosives.

(a) The classification code for an explosive, which is assigned by the Associate Administrator in accordance with this subpart, consists of the division number followed by the compatibility group letter. Compatibility group letters are used to specify the controls for the transportation, and storage related thereto, of explosives and to prevent an increase in hazard that might result if certain types of explosives were stored or transported together. Transportation compatibility requirements for carriers are prescribed in §§ 174.81, 175.78, 176.83 and 177.848 of this subchapter for transportation by rail, air, vessel, and public highway, respectively, and storage incidental thereto.

(b) Compatibility groups and classification codes for the various types of explosives are set forth in the following tables. Table 1 sets forth compatibility groups and classification codes for substances and articles described in the first column of table 1. Table 2 shows the number of classification codes that are possible within each explosive division. Altogether, there are 35 possible classification codes for explosives.

TABLE 1—CLASSIFICATION CODES

Description of substances or article to be classified	Compatibility group	Classification code
Primary explosive substance	A	1.1A
Article containing a primary explosive substance and not containing two or more effective protective features. Some articles, such as detonators for blasting, detonator assemblies for blasting and primers, cap-type, are included, even though they do not contain primary explosives..	B	1.1B 1.2B 1.4B
Propellant explosive substance or other deflagrating explosive substance or article containing such explosive substance.	C	1.1C 1.2C 1.3C 1.4C
Secondary detonating explosive substance or black powder or article containing a secondary detonating explosive substance, in each case without means of initiation and without a propelling charge, or article containing a primary explosive substance and containing two or more effective protective features.	D	1.1D 1.2D 1.4D 1.5D
Article containing a secondary detonating explosive substance, without means of initiation, with a propelling charge (other than one containing flammable liquid or gel or hypergolic liquid).	E	1.1E 1.2E 1.4E

¹The probability of transition from burning to detonation is greater when large quantities are transported in a vessel.

²The risk from articles of Division 1.6 is limited to the explosion of a single article.

TABLE 1—CLASSIFICATION CODES—Continued

Description of substances or article to be classified	Compat- ibility group	Classi- fication code
Article containing a secondary detonating explosive substance with its means of initiation, with a propelling charge (other than one containing flammable liquid or gel or hypergolic liquid) or without a propelling charge.	F	1.1F 1.2F 1.3F 1.4F
Pyrotechnic substance or article containing a pyrotechnic substance, or article containing both an explosive substance and an illuminating, incendiary, tear-producing or smoke-producing substance (other than a water-activated article or one containing white phosphorus, phosphide or flammable liquid or gel or hypergolic liquid).	G	1.1G 1.2G 1.3G 1.4G
Article containing both an explosive substance and white phosphorus	H	1.2H 1.3H
Article containing both an explosive substance and flammable liquid or gel	J	1.1J 1.2J 1.3J
Article containing both an explosive substance and a toxic chemical agent	K	1.2K 1.3K
Explosive substance or article containing an explosive substance and presenting a special risk (e.g., due to water-activation or presence of hypergolic liquids, phosphides or pyrophoric substances) needing isolation of each type.	L	1.1L 1.2L 1.3L
Articles containing only extremely insensitive detonating substances.	N	1.6N
Substance or article so packed or designed that any hazardous effects arising from accidental functioning are limited to the extent that they do not significantly hinder or prohibit fire fighting or other emergency response efforts in the immediate vicinity of the package.	S	1.4S

TABLE 2—SCHEME OF CLASSIFICATION OF EXPLOSIVES, COMBINATION OF HAZARD DIVISION WITH COMPATIBILITY GROUP

Hazard division	Compatibility group														A-S
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	N	S		
1.1	1.1A	1.1B	1.1C	1.1D	1.1E	1.1F	1.1G	.....	1.1J	.....	1.1L	.....	.....	9
1.2	.....	1.2B	1.2C	1.2D	1.2E	1.2F	1.2G	1.2H	1.2J	1.2K	1.2L	.....	.....	10
1.3	.....	.....	1.3C	.....	.....	1.3F	1.3G	1.3H	1.3J	1.3K	1.3L	.....	.....	7
1.4	.....	1.4B	1.4C	1.4D	1.4E	1.4F	1.4G	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.4S	7
1.5	.....	.....	.....	1.5D	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
1.6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.6N	.....	1
1.6	1	3	4	4	3	4	4	2	3	2	3	1	1	35	

[Amdt. 173–224, 55 FR 52617, Dec. 21, 1990, as amended by Amdt. 173–241, 59 FR 67492, Dec. 29, 1994; 64 FR 51918, Sept. 27, 1999; 66 FR 45379, Aug. 28, 2001]

§ 173.53 Provisions for using old classifications of explosives.

Where the classification system in effect prior to January 1, 1991, is referenced in State or local laws, ordinances or regulations not pertaining to the transportation of hazardous materials, the following table may be used to compare old and new hazard class names:

Current classification	Class name prior to Jan. 1, 1991
Division 1.1	Class A explosives.
Division 1.2	Class A or Class B explosives.
Division 1.3	Class B explosive.
Division 1.4	Class C explosives.
Division 1.5	Blasting agents.
Division 1.6	No applicable hazard class.

§ 173.54 Forbidden explosives.

Unless otherwise provided in this subchapter, the following explosives shall not be offered for transportation or transported:

- (a) An explosive that has not been approved in accordance with §173.56 of this subpart.
- (b) An explosive mixture or device containing a chlorate and also containing:
 - (1) An ammonium salt, including a substituted ammonium or quaternary ammonium salt; or
 - (2) An acidic substance, including a salt of a weak base and a strong acid.
- (c) A leaking or damaged package or article containing an explosive.