

# NFPA 498 Standard for Safe Havens and Interchange Lots for Vehicles Transporting Explosives

1996 Edition



National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, PO Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101  
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**NFPA 498**

**Standard for**

**Safe Havens and Interchange Lots  
for Vehicles Transporting Explosives**

**1996 Edition**

This edition of NFPA 498, *Standard for Safe Havens and Interchange Lots for Vehicles Transporting Explosives*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Explosives and acted on by the National Fire Protection Association, Inc., at its Annual Meeting held May 20-23, 1996, in Boston, MA. It was issued by the Standards Council on July 18, 1996, with an effective date of August 9, 1996, and supersedes all previous editions.

This document has been submitted to ANSI for approval.

**Origin and Development of NFPA 498**

This standard was developed by the Technical Committee on Explosives to address the special requirements of motor vehicle terminals specifically designed to handle cargoes of explosive materials. It was tentatively adopted at the 1969 NFPA Annual Meeting and officially adopted at the 1970 NFPA Annual Meeting. Several amendments were adopted at the 1976 NFPA Annual Meeting and at the 1982 NFPA Annual Meeting. In 1986, 1990, and 1992, the document was reconfirmed.

Formerly titled "Explosives Motor Vehicle Terminals", the 1996 edition of NFPA 498 is a complete revision.

The new standard more completely addresses the fire, theft, and explosion hazards that exist when explosive materials are present in parked vehicles in safe havens and in explosives interchange lots.

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**Committee Scope:** This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents safeguarding against the fire and life hazards associated with explosives and related materials during their manufacture, storage, transportation and use. The sale and use of fireworks and model rockets are the responsibility of the Technical Committee on Pyrotechnics.

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**NFPA 498****Standard for****Safe Havens and Interchange Lots for  
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**NOTICE:** An asterisk (\*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Appendix A.

Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 4.

**FOREWORD**

Safe havens and interchange lots provide parking and interchange facilities for vehicles transporting explosives. Some explosives interchange lots also provide temporary holding facilities for less-than-truckload quantities of explosives. This standard is designed to prevent the occurrence or spread of fire in facilities where an explosion can present a distinct threat to the surrounding areas.

Explosives motor vehicle facilities are part of the over-the-road transportation of explosives. These facilities not only provide the services noted above, but can also provide vehicle maintenance and driver rest areas.

Motor vehicles using these facilities operate under the regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (Title 49 CFR). These vehicles are engaged in transporting explosives and ammunition on government bills of lading, or are often carriers of commercial explosives.

Properly operated explosives motor vehicle facilities provide a safe and controlled environment for parking vehicles carrying explosives. The overall result is improved highway safety.

**Chapter 1 General****1-1 Scope.**

**1-1.1** This standard shall apply to safe havens that are used for the parking of vehicles transporting explosives and to explosives interchange lots that are safe areas where less-than-truckloads of explosives shall be permitted to be held for transfer from one vehicle to another for continuance in transportation.

All vehicles covered by this standard shall be required to be engaged in the transportation of explosives and shall carry shipping papers to show that the explosives being transported are properly described, classified, identified, packaged, and labeled in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Additionally, all vehicles shall be required to be marked and placarded in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

**1-1.2** This standard shall apply to the design and operating features of explosives motor vehicle facilities related to the prevention of fire, theft, and explosion.

**1-1.3\*** This standard shall not apply to motor freight terminals for vehicles handling general freight.

**1-1.4** The requirements of NFPA 513, *Standard for Motor Freight Terminals*, shall apply to explosives motor vehicle facilities where they are applicable and are not covered by this standard.

**1-2 Purpose.** This standard shall provide reasonable requirements for the prevention of fires, theft, and explosion within explosives motor vehicle facilities.

**1-3 Definitions.** For the purpose of this standard the following terms shall have the meanings given below:

**Approved.\*** Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

**Authority Having Jurisdiction.\*** The organization, office, or individual responsible for approving equipment, an installation, or a procedure.

**Explosives Interchange Lot.** A specially designated safe area of a motor vehicle terminal where less-than-truckload lots of explosives can be held for transfer from one vehicle to another for continuance in transportation.

**Explosives Motor Vehicle Facility.** A designated area where motor vehicles transporting explosives can be parked, pending further movement in transportation. Such a facility can be a safe haven or interchange lot and can include maintenance shops, driver rest services, or any combination of these conveniences.

**Labeled.** Equipment or materials to which has been attached a label, symbol, or other identifying mark of an organization that is acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with product evaluation that maintains periodic inspection of production of labeled equipment or materials and by whose labeling the manufacturer indicates compliance with appropriate standards or performance in a specified manner.

**Listed.\*** Equipment, materials, or services included in a list published by an organization acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction and concerned with evaluation of products or services that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services and whose listing states either that the equipment, material, or service meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

**Motor Vehicle.** Any self-propelled vehicle, truck, tractor, semi-trailer, or truck-trailer combination used for the transportation of freight over public highways.

**Safe Haven.\*** A secured area specifically designated and approved in writing by local, state, or federal governmental authorities for the parking of vehicles containing Division 1.1, Division 1.2, or Division 1.3 materials (explosives).

**Shall.** Indicates a mandatory requirement.

**Shipping Papers.** A shipping order, bill of lading, manifest, or other shipping document serving a similar purpose and containing the information required by regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation as specified in Title 49 CFR, Parts 172.202, 172.203, and 172.204.

**Should.** Indicates a recommendation or that which is advised but not required.

## Chapter 2 Safe Havens

### 2-1 General.

**2-1.1** All safe havens shall be located in a secured area that complies with the provisions of this chapter.

**2-1.2** Safe havens shall not be located within 300 ft (91.5 m) of a bridge, tunnel, dwelling, building, or place where people work, congregate, or assemble.

*Exception: Facilities and personnel related to the operation of the safe haven.*

**2-1.3** Weeds, underbrush, vegetation, or other combustible materials shall be cleared for a distance of 25 ft (7.6 m) from the safe haven.

**2-1.4\*** The safe haven shall be protected from unauthorized persons or trespassers by use of warning signs, gates, and patrols specified in 2-4.1.

When vehicles carrying Division 1.1, Division 1.2, or Division 1.3 materials (explosives) are parked in a safe haven, the entrance to the safe haven shall be marked with this warning sign:

DANGER NO SMOKING  
NEVER FIGHT EXPLOSIVE FIRES  
VEHICLES ON THIS SITE CONTAIN EXPLOSIVES  
CALL \_\_\_\_\_

The sign shall be weatherproof with reflective printing, and the letters shall be at least 2 in. high.

**2-1.5** Watch personnel assigned to patrol the safe haven shall be made familiar with the information in NFPA 601, *Standard for Security Services in Fire Loss Prevention*.

**2-1.5.1** All watch personnel at the safe haven shall be made aware of the classification of explosives (Division 1.1, Division 1.2, or Division 1.3) in each vehicle and its inherent dangers, and shall have been instructed in the measures and procedures to be followed in order to protect the public from these dangers.

**2-1.5.2** A motor vehicle in good operating condition and capable of moving the explosives-laden trailers in the safe haven shall be kept at the safe haven at all times. The watch or patrol personnel shall be familiar with the vehicle, trained in its use, and supplied with the necessary means and authority to use the motor vehicle to move any of the explosives-loaded vehicles in the safe haven where required. The motor vehicle shall not be parked within 25 ft (7.6 m) of any vehicle containing explosives.

**2-1.6** Fire protection equipment capable of handling incipient fires shall be provided at each safe haven. Two or more portable fire extinguishers with a total fire extinguisher rating of at least 4-A:70-B:C shall be placed at accessible locations in the safe haven. Where a dependable water supply source is readily accessible, water hoses shall be permitted to be used in addition to the required portable extinguishers.

### 2-2 Vehicle Parking.

**2-2.1** Before any vehicle is admitted to a safe haven a thorough inspection shall be made of the unit. As a minimum, the vehicle shall be checked for hot tires, hot wheel bearings, hot

brakes, any accumulation of oil or grease, any defects in the electrical system, or any apparent physical damage to the vehicle that could cause or contribute to a fire. Any defects shall be corrected before the vehicle is placed in the safe haven.

**2-2.2** After a loaded trailer is properly positioned in the safe haven, the tractors shall be disconnected immediately and removed from the safe haven.

**2-2.3** Spacing of not less than 5 ft (1.5 m) shall be maintained between parked trailers, side by side, or back to back. Parking shall be maintained so as not to require the moving of one vehicle in order to move another vehicle.

**2-2.4** Trailers in the safe haven shall be maintained in the same condition as is required for highway transportation, including placarding.

**2-2.5** Where a self-propelled vehicle loaded with explosives is parked in a safe haven it shall be parked at least 25 ft (7.6 m) from any other vehicles containing explosives, and shall be in operable condition, properly placarded, and in a position and condition where it can be moved easily in case of necessity or emergency.

**2-2.6** No explosives shall be transferred from one vehicle to another in a safe haven except in case of necessity or emergency.

**2-2.7\*** No vehicle transporting other hazardous materials shall be parked in a safe haven unless the materials being transported are compatible with explosives.

### 2-3 Control of Ignition Sources.

**2-3.1** Except for minor repairs, no other repair work shall be performed on any vehicle parked in a safe haven. Any repair work involving cutting or welding, operation of the vehicle engine, or the electrical wiring shall be performed only after the explosives have been unloaded from the vehicle, and the vehicle to be repaired has been removed from the safe haven.

**2-3.2** Smoking, matches, open flames, spark-producing devices, and firearms shall be prohibited inside or within 50 ft (15.3 m) of the safe haven.

*Exception: Law enforcement and security personnel shall be permitted to carry firearms where specifically authorized by the authority having jurisdiction.*

**2-3.3** Electric service lines required to be in close proximity to a safe haven shall be no closer than the length of the lines between the poles or towers supporting the lines, unless an effective means is provided to ensure that energized lines, on breaking, cannot come into contact with vehicles parked in the safe haven.

### 2-4 Security Against Trespassers.

**2-4.1** When any vehicle transporting explosives is parked in a safe haven, at least one trained person, 21 years of age or older, shall be assigned to patrol the safe haven on a dedicated basis.

*Exception: Safe havens located on explosives manufacturing facilities or at motor vehicle terminals shall employ other means of acceptable security such as existing plant or terminal protection systems or electronic surveillance devices.*



## 2-5 Employee Training.

**2-5.1** The operator of the safe haven shall maintain an active safety training program in emergency response procedures for all employees working at the safe haven. Written emergency instructions shall be posted and readily accessible to all employees. Employees involved in the loading, shipping, or transportation of explosives shall receive hazardous material training as required by the U.S. Department of Transportation (Title 49 CFR, Subpart H, Sections 172.700 through 172.704) and shall be familiar with the U.S. Department of Transportation *Emergency Response Guide* (ERG) (RSPA-5800.6).

## 2-6 Notification of Authority Having Jurisdiction.

**2-6.1** The operator of the safe haven shall notify, in writing (with signed receipt), local fire department, law enforcement, and emergency response agencies of the establishment and approval of a safe haven, and advise of the type and maximum quantity of Division 1.1, Division 1.2, and Division 1.3 materials authorized for the safe haven. Copies of the safe haven approval and emergency response notifications shall be maintained by the safe haven operator.

# Chapter 3 Explosives Interchange Lots

## 3-1 General.

**3-1.1\*** A temporary holding facility conforming to the construction requirements for Type 1 or Type 2 magazines as described in NFPA 495, *Explosive Materials Code*, shall be provided in the interchange lot. If detonators or other initiators are to be temporarily held at the same time as other explosives, then two temporary holding facilities shall be required; one for detonators (initiators) and the second for the other explosives.

**3-1.2** The facilities specified in 3-1.1 shall be located a minimum of 50 ft (15.3 m) from structures on the adjoining property or from any facility that could create a fire hazard.

**3-1.3** Where an area at the loading dock is designated for the temporary holding of explosives in a trailer (as provided in Section 3-2), it shall not be located within 50 ft (15.3 m) of a fire hazard such as an area where smoking is permitted, where hot work is being done, or where combustible or flammable materials are present.

## 3-2 Operations.

**3-2.1** Explosives brought into the interchange lot to await shipment shall be immediately placed in the facility specified in 3-1.1 until such time as the explosives are loaded on a departing over-the-road motor vehicle.

**3-2.2** Explosives delivered to the interchange lot by a connecting carrier shall be retained in the trailer at a designated section of the loading dock, or the trailer shall be parked in an isolated area of the interchange lot, or the explosives shall be placed in the holding facility.

**3-2.3** The explosives transport vehicles, including trailers, in the interchange lot shall be maintained in the same condition

as is required for highway transportation, including placarding.

**3-2.4** Explosives shall not be retained on the lot, either in a trailer or holding facility, for a period longer than necessary, but in no case for more than 100 hours.

**3-2.5** Smoking, matches, open flames, spark-producing devices, and firearms shall be prohibited inside of and within 50 ft (15.3 m) of the temporary holding facility or trailer containing explosives.

*Exception: Law enforcement and security personnel shall be permitted to carry firearms where specifically authorized by the authority having jurisdiction.*

**3-2.6** Temporary facilities as specified in 3-1.1 shall be appropriately marked so that the interchange lot employees are aware of the location.

**3-2.7** Portable fire extinguishers, having a capacity of 4-A:70-B:C, shall be placed at each temporary holding facility and shall be readily available for immediate use.

**3-2.8** The operator of the explosives motor vehicle interchange lot shall maintain an active training program in emergency procedures for all employees stationed at the interchange lot. Written emergency instructions shall be posted and readily accessible to all employees. Employees involved in the loading, shipping, or transportation of explosives shall receive hazardous material training as required by the U.S. Department of Transportation (49 CFR, Subpart H, Sections 172.700 through 172.704) and shall be familiar with the U.S. Department of Transportation *Emergency Response Guide* (ERG) (RSPA-5800.6). Any driver who transports a vehicle loaded with explosives over public highways shall possess a valid commercial driver's license (CDL) with a hazardous material endorsement (H).

# Chapter 4 Referenced Publications

**4-1** The following documents or portions thereof are referenced within this standard and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document. The edition indicated for each reference is the current edition as of the date of the NFPA issuance of this document.

**4-1.1 NFPA Publications.** National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

NFPA 495, *Explosive Materials Code*, 1996 edition.

NFPA 513, *Standard for Motor Freight Terminals*, 1994 edition.

NFPA 601, *Standard for Security Services in Fire Loss Prevention*, 1996 edition.

**4-1.2 Federal Government Publications.** Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

ERG RSPA-5800.6, *Emergency Response Guide*.

Title 49 CFR, Parts 325 through 399, *Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations*.

Title 49 CFR, Parts 100 through 199, *Hazardous Materials Regulations*.

## Appendix A Explanatory Material

*This Appendix is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only.*

**A-1-1.3** See NFPA 513, *Standard for Motor Freight Terminals*.

**A-1-3 Approved.** The National Fire Protection Association does not approve, inspect, or certify any installations, procedures, equipment, or materials; nor does it approve or evaluate testing laboratories. In determining the acceptability of installations, procedures, equipment, or materials, the authority having jurisdiction may base acceptance on compliance with NFPA or other appropriate standards. In the absence of such standards, said authority may require evidence of proper installation, procedure, or use. The authority having jurisdiction may also refer to the listings or labeling practices of an organization concerned with product evaluations that is in a position to determine compliance with appropriate standards for the current production of listed items.

**A-1-3 Authority Having Jurisdiction.** The phrase "authority having jurisdiction" is used in NFPA documents in a broad manner, since jurisdictions and approval agencies vary, as do their responsibilities. Where public safety is primary, the authority having jurisdiction may be a federal, state, local, or other regional department or individual such as a fire chief; fire marshal; chief of a fire prevention bureau, labor department, or health department; building official; electrical inspector; or others having statutory authority. For insurance purposes, an insurance inspection department, rating bureau, or other insurance company representative may be the authority having jurisdiction. In many circumstances, the property owner or his or her designated agent assumes the role of the authority having jurisdiction; at government installations, the commanding officer or departmental official may be the authority having jurisdiction.

**A-1-3 Listed.** The means for identifying listed equipment may vary for each organization concerned with product evaluation,

some of which do not recognize equipment as listed unless it is also labeled. The authority having jurisdiction should utilize the system employed by the listing organization to identify a listed product.

**A-1-3 Safe Haven.** See Title 49 CFR, Part 397.5.

**A-2-1.4** The sign does not need to be displayed when there are no explosives-laden vehicles in the safe haven.

**A-2-2.7** In case of an emergency where vehicles loaded with other hazardous materials are brought to a safe haven, such vehicles should be parked at a location on the lot well separated from the explosives-laden vehicles.

**A-3-1.1** Temporary holding facilities should be separated as far as practicable to reduce the concentration of explosives in any single area of the terminal.

## Appendix B Referenced Publications

**B-1** The following documents or portions thereof are referenced within this standard for informational purposes only and thus are not considered part of the requirements of this document. The edition indicated for each reference is the current edition as of the date of the NFPA issuance of this document.

**B-1.1 NFPA Publication.** National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

NFPA 513, *Standard for Motor Freight Terminals*, 1994 edition.

**B-1.2 Other Publications.**

**B-1.2.1 U.S. Government Publication.** U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Title 49 CFR, Part 397.5.