

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY SAFETY/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION
“STANDARDS FOR INTERPRETATIONS”

NATIONAL FIRE CODES AND THE CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE

STANDARD NUMBER 704

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION PAMPHLET 704
IDENTIFICATION OF HAZARD MATERIALS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

I SCOPE:

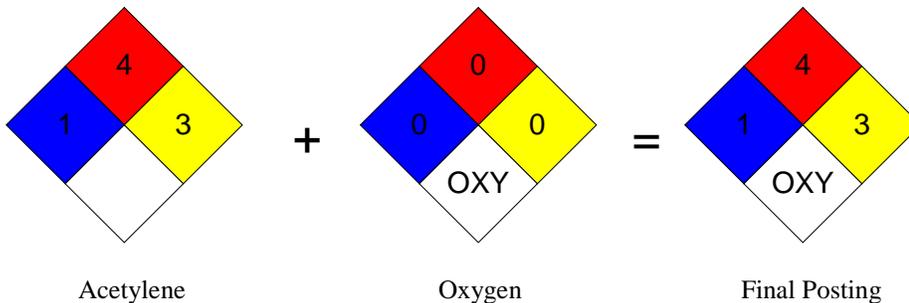
This standard, in conjunction with N.F.P.A. pamphlet 704 currently adopted, shall address the health, flammability, instability, and related hazards that are presented by short term, acute exposure to a material under conditions of fire, spill, or similar emergencies.

II PURPOSE:

The purpose of this standard is to provide identification of fire hazard and to placard all businesses that have storage were certain minimum quantity of hazard material exists.

III LOCATION:

1. The identification placard shall be located on the outside of buildings and/or storage tanks in locations deemed appropriate by fire department staff. Inside placarding shall be required when chemicals are segregated into separate areas.
2. The material safety data sheet (MSDS) should have the information on hazard ratings to be used for each material. Community Safety staff shall approve the placard numbering.
3. The acceptable sizes of NFPA 704 signs are:
 - 4 inches on each side with 2 inch symbol (interior posting)
 - 10 inches on each side with 4 inch symbols for buildings less than 100,000 ft²
 - 15 inches on each side with 6 inch symbols for buildings greater than 100,000 ft²
4. Letters shall be a minimum of four (4) inches high by three (3) inches wide by 5/8-inch stroke.
5. The number or symbol indication in each colored category shall reflect the most severe hazard associated with any hazardous materials at the business or in the area indicated by the posting.



6. If the property is fenced, all access points must be posted immediately adjacent to the gate. Posting on fences shall be plainly visible and readable from the nearest public access point.
7. Gasoline stations that handle only motor vehicle fuels stored in underground storage tanks are exempt from posting.
8. Businesses that handle carbon dioxide gas for soda fountains and no other hazardous materials are exempt from posting.

9. Any business with an N.F.P.A. 704 rating of 2-3-3 or above will be required to install an approved key box vault on the premises, which would contain business keys and a business plan.

IV QUANTITIES:

Placarding shall be required when the following quantities on site, at any one time, equal or exceed the following.

- 55 gallons of hazardous material
- 500 pounds of a hazardous material
- 200 cubic feet of flammable gases
- 25 pounds of cellulose nitrate
- 10 gallons of organic peroxides
- All class I and class II explosives (Law enforcement exempt)
- Threshold planning quantities for extremely hazardous substances