

Introduction to Shipping Dangerous Goods With FedEx



The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) regulate dangerous goods (DG) shipping. They've established strict – and often complex – regulations around DG shipping. Here are five steps to help you do it correctly.

Step 1: Determine if your commodity is DG

How can you determine if your shipment qualifies as DG? Obtain a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) from the product's manufacturer. Newer SDS versions feature a Transportation section that clearly outlines what qualifies as DG. This includes:

- UN or ID Number
- Proper Shipping Name
- Technical Name
- Subsidiary hazard
- Packing Group

Step 2: Get trained

Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR) 172.704 (c) requires that companies shipping DG have a trained “hazmat employee.” U.S. regulations require training every three years for hazmat employees, and non-U.S.-origin locations generally have a two-year standard.

FedEx ® DG shipments must be prepared under IATA/ICAO DG regulations (with limited exceptions). That means you'll need IATA/ICAO training to ship with FedEx.

FedEx can help. We offer several types of DG training. To find out more, go to:

<https://fedex.registration.meetingevolution.net>. Another option is to hire an IATA-trained pack-and-ship vendor. An internet search will turn up IATA-trained DG vendors in your area.

Step 3: Stay current on regulations

There are two primary sources to consult: IATA's Dangerous Goods Regulations guide and the ICAO manual. DG regulations typically undergo major changes when the new version of the ICAO manual is published.

In general, IATA's Dangerous Goods Regulations guide is more user friendly than the ICAO manual. It also includes state (country) and operator (carrier) variations (see below).

Key points to note:

- Check to see if the countries you are shipping to, from or through have DG variations. Some countries can apply additional regulations than the regulations you'll find in the IATA guide and the ICAO manual. To ensure compliance and avoid legal penalties, you'll need to identify and adhere to the variations that apply to your shipments.
- The U.S. government variation code is USG. Some USG variations apply to all DG shipments. Others only apply if the shipment is to, from or within the U.S. You must also comply with any state variations that apply to shipments originating in or destined for non-U.S. locations.
- FX is the code for FedEx operator variations. FX variations can be more restrictive than other regulations. You can find a full list of them in IATA's Dangerous Goods Regulations guide and on the FedEx web site here:

https://www.fedex.com/content/dam/fedex/us-united-states/services/DG_IATA_Variations_2025.pdf

NOTE: Some DG require special approvals. Refer to the FX variations for complete detail.

- To purchase IATA's Dangerous Goods Regulations guide go to www.iata.org/publications
- To purchase the ICAO manual, go to www.icao.int

Step 4: Use the correct packaging and DG labels

- See Appendix E in the IATA's Dangerous Goods Regulations guide for vendors that sell DG specification packaging by country. IATA also sells DG labels here: www.iata.org/labels.

Step 5: Use the proper software to generate your Shipper's Declaration

FX 18 requires that FedEx recognized vendors produce the Shipper's Declaration for Dangerous Goods form for DG shipments that originate in the U.S.

- For a link to FedEx recognized 3rd party vendors, go to:
http://images.fedex.com/us/services/pdf/Dangerous_Goods_Vendor_Software_List.pdf

Has your company created proprietary software with DG edit checks? FedEx will need to review and approve it. You can begin the process by sending an email to: dghotline@fedex.com

FedEx also offers several FX-18 compliant electronic shipping solutions:

- FedEx Ship Manager® Software (CAFÉ)
- FedEx Ship Manager® Server (FSMS/FXRS)
- FedEx Web Services (WSXI)
- FedEx PowerShip Plus (PLUS)
- The Shipper's Declaration must be produced by these FedEx® electronic shipping solutions and the FedEx shipping automation label must indicate the 4 letter acronym listed above in parentheses, accompanied by the software version on the shipping automation label – e.g., CAFÉ3409, FXRS1400, WSXI3000, and PLUS0600.

NOTES: Not all FedEx automation solutions are available from every location.

U.S. shippers with a FedEx account number are eligible for FedEx Ship Manager. The software is free, and there is no minimum volume requirement for eligibility. Contact the FedEx Ship Manager Technical Support Center at 1.877.FDX Assist 1.877.339.2774 to get the software.

FedEx Resources

In addition to the resources listed above, we offer a range of tools that can help take the worry out of shipping DG.

- You can find FedEx DG shipping details at fedex.com/dangerousgoods. Click the Resources Tab for information on everything from FedEx Acceptance Checklists to a Basic Job Aid for preparing non-radioactive shipments, a range of other job aids (e.g. Dry Ice Job Aid) and more.
- The FedEx Dangerous Goods/Hazardous Materials Hotline connects you to trained personnel who can answer your questions once you have identified and classified your material. Call 1.800.GoFedEx 1.800.463.3339 (press “81” or say “dangerous goods”) between 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. CST on weekdays and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays.
- Have additional questions? FedEx Dangerous Goods Analysts (US only) may be available either by conference call or a meeting. Inquire with your Sales Rep.
- FedEx Dangerous Goods Administration/Corporate Safety offers DG seminars and supports all aspects of DG shipping with FedEx. To find out more, go to <https://fedex.registration.meetingevolution.net>.
- FedEx provides several versions of the Shipper’s Declaration for Dangerous Goods form depending upon the software used. Call 1.800.GoFedEx 1.800.463.3339 with the name of the form and the part # to place an order. We also offer a special FedEx dry ice label free of charge.

Failure to properly prepare a shipment of dangerous goods may result in suspension or termination of DG shipping privileges with FedEx.