Hazardous substances / chemicals are inseparable part of life in today's context. These substances need to be handled in safe and recommended manner else they can result in fatal and catastrophic disaster causing irreparable damage to mankind and the environment.

The safety aspects, while transporting the hazardous substances, need prime attention in the present time because the picture of road accidents in India is very grim with lacs of injuries and thousands of fatalities reported every year. The road accidents involves vehicles carrying hazardous substances which can lead to fire, explosion, spillage or release of hazardous material posing potential threat in and around the accident area. There is continuing need to meet the growing concern for the protection of life, property and the environment through the safe transportation of dangerous goods, while facilitating trade, and this has prompted Government to prescribe the safe code for transportation of hazardous substances and make them mandatory too.

The mandatory measures alone can not thrust the move to content the growing road accidents but it requires civic and moral responsibilities too. Following are some basic and primary tips which, if followed by transporters, owners, concerned authorities and citizens during transportation, can avert most of the tragic and fatal road accidents involving hazardous chemicals, thus, helping the environment, mankind and nation as well:

* Use of HAZCHEM code.
* Availability of TREM CARD with the driver of vehicle.
* Ensure availability of Material Safety Data Sheet of chemicals being transported.
* Display CAS No., RTECS No., UN No. of chemical on vehicle.
* Proper display of class level of hazardous material.
* Ensuring road worthiness of vehicle.
* Check the condition of transport container.
* Ensure safety audit of vehicle and its fitness.
* Availability of safety and other equipment with vehicle.
* Precautions during loading and off loading of material.
* Ensure certain minimum qualification for drivers and helpers.
* Basic training to the drivers and cleaners.
* Awareness to drivers about substances being transported.
* Abide by Motor Vehicle Rules and other guidelines.
* Precautions during temporary halt of vehicle.
* Intimate the concerned authorities regarding route and substance being transported.
* In case of accident inform immediately to the Police and concerned district authorities.
* Contact immediately the Emergency Response Centre, Bhopal or any Regional Office of M.P. Pollution Control Board for assistance and timely action at site.

Class labels to be used for transportation of dangerous and hazardous substances

- Explosives
  - Symbol (explosive bomb): black background, orange back
  - Non-flammable compressed gases
    - Symbol (gas cylinder): black or white background, green
  - Flammable gases
    - Symbol (flame): black or white background, red
  - Poison gas
    - Symbol (poison): black or white background, white
  - Flammable solids
    - Symbol (flame): black background, white with red stripes
  - Spontaneously combustible
    - Symbol (flame): black background, white, red
  - Dangerous when wet
    - Symbol (water): black background, blue
  - Other substances
    - Symbol (other): black background, red

Divisions:
- Division 1.2: Substances liable to spontaneous combustion
- Division 2.3: Substances which, in contact with water, emit flammable gases