

Transportation Safety

Q: **How are transportation safety and security standards established?**

DOT and NRC share primary responsibility for establishing standards for the safe transport of radioactive materials within the United States. These standards are based on international transport standards that are used to safely ship radioactive materials worldwide.

DOT standards cover packaging, transporting, and handling of radioactive materials, including labeling, shipping papers, placards, loading, and unloading. DOT standards also specify training needed for personnel who perform handling and transport of hazardous materials. The DOT, in cooperation with the DHS, sets standards for emergency preparedness for carriers.

NRC establishes design and performance standards for packages that carry materials with higher levels of radioactivity, like spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. All shipments of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to Yucca Mountain must use containers whose designs meet NRC certification requirements.

When transporting radioactive materials, DOE meets or exceeds all applicable standards set by DOT and NRC.



Rail cask with impact limiters designed for the transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.