

**FARMER / INTRASTATE**  
**NURSE TANK TRAILER INSPECTION GUIDELINES**  
**Transporting anhydrous ammonia**

- **Shipping Papers & Emergency Response Information (173.315 (m) (7) & 172.600 (d))**
  - Not required. Nurse tanks operated by private carriers, including ag chemical retailers and farmers, for agricultural purposes, are excepted from shipping papers. Emergency information is not required when shipments are excepted from the shipping paper requirements.
- **Placarding (172.504)**
  - Nurse tanks are cargo tanks and require placards on each side and ends. If two tanks are side x side each tank must have 4 placards on it. See exception in 172.507 (b). The proper placard is 2.2 (Non-flammable gas).
- **Marking (172.328)**
  - Nurse tanks must be marked with their ID numbers (proper ID #1005)
    - Each side & each end if  $\geq$  1000 gallons
    - Two opposing sides if  $<$  1000 gallons
  - Proper shipping name or common name
  - Inhalation Hazard opposing sides
  - Special Permit number if permit required
- **ASME Data Plate**
  - Tanks must have a legible ASME data plate – if not in compliance must operate under Special Permit.
  - Tank welded alterations/repairs must be done by a National Board certified (R-Stamp) facility. Documentation of alterations/repairs must be at carrier's place of business.
- **Federal Special Permit (SP 13554)**
  - Tank must be inspected and marked per Special Permit
  - Must have a unique owners unit number for each tank
  - Failure to meet all requirements of the special permit negates the special permit - the tank would be an unauthorized package for NH3
- **Filling Density**
  - Nurse tanks must not be loaded to a filling density greater than 56% - this works out to approximately 85% on the tank gauge.
- **Annual Inspection Requirements (169.781 placarded vehicle)**
  - Nurse tank not required
  - Towing vehicle required
- **Daily Inspections (169.782 placarded vehicle)**
  - Required
- **Age Requirement (221.033 (2a))**
  - No age limit
- **CDL Requirements & Medical Cert. Requirements**
  - Not required if within 150 miles of farm. Applies to the farmer, family member, or employee.
  - Beyond 150 miles all CDL regulations apply.
- **Speed Limitations 169.81(10) & 169.522**
  - Pick-up may tow 2 empty nurse tanks not  $>$  35 mph. (not further than 35 miles from truck owners home post office)
  - Loaded nurse tank not  $>$  30 mph
  - 1 Empty nurse tank at lawful speeds  $>$  30 mph

- **Equipment**

- Lighting (169.55)
  - If lights on towing unit are visible no lights required on nurse tank
  - If towing vehicles lights are blocked by towed vehicle lights are required on towed vehicle
  - Two reflectors required on rear of nurse tank
- Brakes

A towed implement of husbandry must be equipped with brakes adequate to control its movement and to stop and hold it if:

- it has a gross vehicle weight of more than 24,000 pounds and was manufactured and sold after January 1, 1994;
  - it has a gross vehicle weight of more than 12,000 pounds and is towed by a vehicle other than a self-propelled implement of husbandry; or
  - it has a gross vehicle weight of more than 3,000 pounds and is being towed by a registered passenger automobile other than a pickup truck
  - If a towed implement of husbandry with a gross vehicle weight of more than 6,000 pounds is required to have brakes, it must also have brakes adequate to stop and hold it if it becomes detached from the towing vehicle. (break away brake system)
- Hitches
    - Safety chains,
    - Fifth wheel and kingpin assembly or
    - Hitch pin or other hitching device with a retainer that prevents accidental unhitching
  - Tank to Trailer Securement
    - Securement of tank to the trailer must be tight and free from defects

- **Weight Limitations**

- No more than 500 lbs per inch of tire tread width
- Subject to gross weight limits or posted weight limits on bridges