

What is DOT Empty?

According to 49 CFR 173.29, an empty packaging meets one of the following conditions:

- The packaging is unused,
- The packaging is sufficiently cleaned of residue and purged of vapors to remove any potential hazard,
- The packaging is refilled with a material that is not hazardous to such an extent that any residue remaining in the packaging no longer poses a hazard,
- The packaging contains residue of specifically allowable hazardous materials listed in 49 CFR 173.29(b)(iv).

An empty package must have all markings, labels, and placards removed, obliterated, or securely covered in transportation. However, this does not apply to packagings in a transport vehicle or freight container if the packaging is not visible in transportation and the packaging is loaded by the shipper and unloaded by the shipper or consignee.

Any packaging that is NOT empty must be offered for transportation and transported in the same manner as when it previously contained a greater quantity of hazardous material. That is, the packaging must have all of the appropriate marks, labels, placards, accompanying shipping papers, and emergency response information.