As a general rule, vehicles carrying an amount of hazardous materials that may require placards, must remain on designated hazardous materials routes. There are some exceptions to the rule:

- You may leave an authorized route in order to service a vehicle.
- You may leave an authorized route for local pickup or delivery of hazardous materials.
- You may leave an authorized route due to emergencies that would make continued use of the route unsafe.
- You may leave an authorized route when it is closed pursuant to 49 CFR 322.54.

A person transporting hazardous materials may make successive local pickups and deliveries without returning to the route between deliveries, when returning to the route is unreasonable.

Agricultural products other than Class 2 materials as defined in 49 CFR, over local roads between fields of the same farm, are excepted from the statutory requirements when transported by a farmer who is an intrastate private motor carrier and the movement of the agricultural product is in compliance with 49 CFR 173.15 and 49 CFR 107.5 of the following configurations:

- Quantities of less than 500 gallons of Table 2 hazardous materials.
- Table 2 hazardous materials in containers of five gallons or less.
- Table 2 hazardous materials when they are packaged as consumer commodities as defined in 49 CFR.

Additionally, motor vehicles that are transporting ores, the products from mining, milling, smelting, or similar processing of ores, and the wastes and tailings from those processes or special fireworks as defined in 49 CFR 173.88 when the aggregate amount of flash powder does not exceed fifty pounds, are excepted from the requirements of routing.