

I understand that security for terrorists' threats is important and that large containers of hazardous chemicals such as rail cars can be used. Making them unidentifiable to these individuals would be a great solution. I do not believe removing the markings on train cars will benefit because the risk to first responders and the delay of information about the contents, in my opinion, is a greater risk. Finding information on contents in rail cars would be easy if you know what to look for and access to rail cars is easy.

In emergencies minutes can save lives. A long time has been spent getting common markings and training for first responders and now a system is in place that can save those minutes. In my opinion, removing markings would not reduce the risk enough to offset the risk to first responders and the public.

When transport systems have been designed safe enough so that the contents cannot be spilled into the environment, or these transport a common target should the markings be removed. Even in a terrorist event knowing what has been released could reduce the risk, where not identifying the hazardous material, could help the terrorist.

To reduce the threat of hazardous materials incidents would best be reduced by making shipment in less non-hazardous components and mix at the point of use. Spending resources to reduce the hazardous materials being transported reduces the threat from a serious event from any source or an accident. Short term fixes typically do little to reduce the long term solution.