

Outreach Program

RSPA sponsors the Cooperative Hazardous Materials Enforcement Development (COHMED) program. This outreach effort encourages partnerships among Federal/state and local agencies, industry associations, public interest groups, and Native American tribes, and promotes national uniformity of regulations and enforcement activities. Through semi-annual meetings, RSPA provides a forum for these groups to meet and obtain current and relevant training in hazardous materials transportation, and discuss issues of mutual concern.

Hazardous Materials Information eXchange (HMIX)

The HMIX, managed in OHMIT as a joint project with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is a FREE interactive electronic bulletin board which is available 24 hours a day. This electronic bulletin board offers topics on training courses, coming events, public and private sector hazmat information, regulations, interpretations and other safety-related information. The public is encouraged to take advantage of this FREE service and to contribute useful information to this two-way communication system. Access HMIX at: (708) 252-3275 or

Internet hmix.dis.anl.gov (146.137.100.54)
FedWorld topic #143 (703) 321-3339

Toll-free assistance is 1-800-PLANFOR (752-6367), and in Illinois, 1-800-367-9592.

Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)

RSPA publishes the ERG which addresses all hazardous materials regulated by DOT along with suggested initial response actions to be taken in the event of an incident (spill, explosion, fire, etc.) involving hazardous materials. Updated every three years to accommodate new products and technology, the ERG is available to first responders--police, fire and other emergency response personnel. The goal is to have an ERG in every emergency response vehicle nationwide. To date, more than five million copies have been distributed without charge to the emergency response community. The 1993 edition of the ERG is available in Spanish. The 1996 North American version will be available in English, Spanish and French.

Registration Program

The Hazardous Materials Registration Program was established in 1992, as mandated by the Federal hazmat law. Persons who transport or offer for transportation, certain types or quantities of hazardous materials, must file an annual registration statement and pay a fee of to the Department. Fees paid under the program fund emergency planning and training grants to States, territories and Native American tribes. Emergency planning and training helps communities prepare for hazardous materials emergencies.

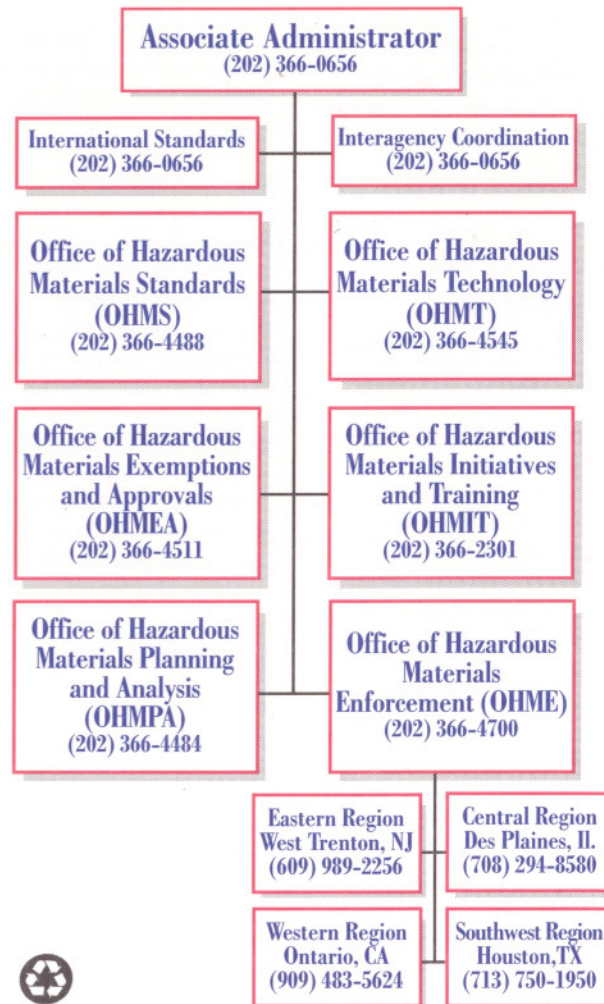


INFO-LINE

1-800-HMR49-22

(1-800-467-4922)

Call our information line to obtain hazardous materials transportation information, copies of rulemakings and training materials. INFO-LINE specialists are on duty Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern time. However, you may call anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and leave a message. We will return your call before the end of the next business day. You may use this number to report alleged violations of the Hazardous Materials Regulations.



Research and Special Programs Administration

Hazardous Materials Safety



U.S. Department of Transportation

Research and Special Programs Administration

Within the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) is responsible for coordinating a national safety program for transportation of hazardous materials by air, rail, highway, and water. Included in this program is responsibility for developing and issuing the Hazardous Materials Regulations which are contained in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety

RSPA, through the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, is responsible for formulating, issuing and revising hazardous materials regulations and exemptions under the Federal hazardous materials transportation law. The Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) cover hazardous materials definitions and classifications, shipper and carrier operations, and packaging and container specifications. With responsibility for enforcement of regulations, other than those applicable to a single mode of transportation, RSPA places emphasis on container manufacturers, retesters and reconditioners, and multimodal shippers of hazardous materials.

Hazmat Standards

The Office of Hazardous Materials Standards (OHMS) develops and issues amendments to the HMR based on requests received from a variety of sources: the general public, other government agencies, congressional mandates, rulemaking proposals from the four modal administrations, and RSPA initiatives. These requests are evaluated to determine the need for new or amended regulations and to identify and eliminate unnecessary or burdensome regulations. Public participation is essential and encouraged through the solicitation of comments on rulemaking proposals.

Exemptions and Approvals

Many unusual shipping situations and technological advances are not addressed in existing regulations, thus the Office of Hazardous Materials Exemptions and Approvals (OHMEA), on a case-by-case basis, grants exemptions and approvals. The level of safety must be equivalent to existing regulations or consistent with the public interest. Periodically, exemptions are converted to general regulations which authorize the entire regulated industry to use containers or shipping methods previously authorized as exemptions.

Inspection and Enforcement

The Office of Hazardous Materials Enforcement's (OHME) coordinates the Department's policies on hazardous materials enforcement. The primary focus of the OHME inspection and enforcement program is hazardous materials packaging in all its forms and related retesting and reconditioning activities. Shipments of hazardous materials are inspected for compliance with classification, description, marking, labeling and packaging requirements. The OHME provides assistance to, and conducts joint inspections with, other modal administrations, state enforcement personnel, and other Federal agencies. To further this coordination effort, the OHME has four regional offices and a headquarters unit in Washington, DC.

Publications and Training

Training and information dissemination are important responsibilities of the Office of Hazardous Materials Initiatives and Training (OHMIT). To promote compliance with hazardous materials regulations, OHMIT distributes training and information guides to private sector and government personnel. Brochures, charts, publications, training materials, videotapes and other safety-related information are available to the public.

Hazardous materials training is provided to Federal, state and local enforcement agencies, industry, and emergency response personnel. The major focus is on hazardous materials compliance, enforcement, and emergency response. Classroom training is provided by the staff of the Transportation Safety Institute, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and at selected sites throughout the country. New emphasis is being placed on PC-based self-study programs through a CD-ROM modular training series.

Information Analysis and Planning

The Office of Hazardous Materials Planning and Analysis (OHMPA) operates the Hazardous Materials Information System (HMIS), a computerized national database, containing comprehensive information on hazardous materials incident reports and other hazardous materials safety-related information. HMIS supports RSPA's mission

activities and identifies emerging, broad-based safety issues. Access to major areas of the system is provided FREE to government agencies and the public through user-friendly, menu-driven programs. OHMPA has operational responsibility for both the Hazardous Materials Registration and Emergency Preparedness Grants programs. Certain shippers and carriers are required to pay an annual fee which funds emergency preparedness grants to States, territories, and Native American tribes to train and prepare to respond to hazardous materials emergencies.

For information on HMIS, or the registration or grants programs, call (202) 366-4484 or write to the Director, DOT/RSPA/OHMPA, DHM-60, Washington, DC 20590.

Technical Support

The Office of Hazardous Materials Technology (OHMT) provides science and engineering support for development, modification, and interpretation of hazardous materials regulations both domestic and international. The OHMT also provides technical support for exemptions, approvals, training,

emergency response, and enforcement activities. Through research and analysis, OHMT provides direction and support in defining and developing a comprehensive range of alternatives for classification, packaging, operational controls, and employee/public health regulations and policies for hazardous materials.

Special Initiatives International Liaison

RSPA participates in the activities of international organizations involved in the safe transportation of hazardous materials (dangerous goods). These include:

- The UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods,
- The Economic Commission for Europe Joint Meeting of European Highway (ADR) and Rail (RID) Authorities,
- The International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and
- The International Atomic Energy Agency.

HAZMAT PUBLICATIONS

Videos, training materials, fact sheets, newsletters and other safety related information are available from RSPA. To obtain these materials:

Fax (202) 366-7342

E-Mail TRAINING@rspa.dot.gov

or write to:

U.S. Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration, DHM-50
400 Seventh Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20590-0001
(202) 366-2301