Most transportation incidents involving hazardous materials are the result of human error.

Training is the best means of preventing hazardous materials incidents.

Why Measure Up?

1. Heightens Employee Safety
2. Reduces Incidents and Accidents
3. Increases Employee Skills
4. Precludes Penalties
5. Reduces Operating Costs
6. Decreases Property Damage Costs
7. Increases Productivity
8. Increases Profits

Hazardous Materials

INFO-LINE
1-800-HMR49-22

Call our information line to obtain hazardous materials transportation information, copies of rulemakings and training materials. Specialists are on duty Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern time; however, you may call any time, 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.

Training Sources

Videos, CD-ROMs, training materials, fact sheets, newsletters, and other safety-related information are available from U.S. DOT.

View them or order on-line on the web at http://hazmat.dot.gov/pubs/pubs.htm

U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Office of Hazardous Materials Initiatives and Training
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, PHH-50
Washington, DC 20590-0001
202-366-2301  FAX: 202-366-7342

GOT A HAZMAT QUESTION?
http://hazmat.dot.gov

U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

DOES YOUR HAZMAT TRAINING MEASURE UP?

Training for the Safe Transportation of Hazardous Materials
The Federal hazardous materials transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is the basic statute pertaining to the transportation of hazardous materials (hazmat) in the United States. This law requires the training of all hazmat employees. The purposes are to increase a hazmat employee’s safety awareness and to be an essential element in reducing hazmat incidents. The Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) include training requirements in several sections of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) as follows:

GENERAL
§ 173.1

SPECIFIC
§ 172.704

MODAL
Air § 175.20
Vessel § 176.13
Highway §§ 177.800, 177.816

Each hazmat employer must:
• train and test,
• certify, and
• develop and retain records of current training (inclusive of preceding three years) for each hazmat employee (during the period of employment and 90 days thereafter).

Hazmat training must include:
• general awareness/familiarization;
• function-specific;
• safety;
• security awareness;
• In-depth security training, if a security plan is required; and
• driver training (for each hazmat employee who will operate a motor vehicle).

Frequency of training
Initial training - a new employee, or an employee who changes job functions, may perform hazmat job functions before completing training, provided:
• the employee does so under the direct supervision of a properly trained and knowledgeable hazmat employee; and
• the hazmat training is completed within 90 days of employment or change in job function.

Recurrent training is required at least once every three years. The three-year period begins on the actual date of training.

Relevant training received from a previous employer or source may be used to satisfy the requirements provided a current record of training is obtained from the previous employer or other sources. Training conducted by OSHA, EPA, and other Federal or international agencies, may be used to satisfy the training requirements in §172.704(a) to the extent that such training addresses the training components specified in paragraph (a) of this section.

Training records must include:
• hazmat employee’s name;
• completion date of most recent training;
• training materials (copy, description, or location);
• name and address of hazmat trainer; and
• certification that the hazmat employee has been trained and tested.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

May hazmat employers/employees train and test themselves (an owner-operator)?
Yes, self-training is acceptable provided that all training requirements of §172.704 are met.

Who certifies that an instructor is qualified to train, test, and certify in accordance with §172.704?
Except for certain FAA required 14 CFR training, the U.S. DOT does not review or certify training programs for pre-approval purposes. The employer must determine a trainer’s qualifications based on the employer’s needs.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Must the test be in a written format or may a skill demonstration be used?
Any test that ensures that the employee can perform the assigned duties in compliance with the HMR is acceptable. Training and testing may be accomplished in a variety of ways: performance, written, verbal, or a combination of these.

What type of fines would be involved?
A violation of any hazardous materials regulation, including training, may result in a civil penalty of up to $32,500 for each violation and, in certain cases, criminal penalties of up to $500,000 and imprisonment of up to 5 years. See §107.329 and §107.333.

Is a shipmaster a hazmat employee requiring training?
Yes, each person who performs any function subject to the HMR must be trained, except special circumstances addressed by §172.704(e).

Does the hazmat training regulations apply to vessel operations?
Yes, the regulations apply to each non-bulk domestic and foreign vessel while operating in the navigable waters of the United States.

Do the hazmat training regulations apply to employees of carriers operating in bulk packagings?
No. Except for transportation in bulk packagings, the bulk carriage of hazardous materials by water is governed by 46 CFR Chapter I, Subchapter D, I, N, and O. See 49 CFR §176.5(d).

Is a shippable hazmat employer?
No, the shipmaster is a hazmat employee; the operator of the vessel is the hazmat employer.

Do the hazmat training regulations apply to employees working with materials that are consumer commodities?
Yes.