

Outreach Programs

RSPA sponsors the Cooperative Hazardous Materials Education (COHMED) program, Multimodal Seminars, and the Hazmat Safety Assistance Team (HMSAT). The Safety Assistance Team plans, coordinates, and implements hazmat safety program activities and provides advice concerning technical assistance, compliance and regulatory requirements to Federal, state and local governments, and the private sector. These outreach efforts encourage partnerships among agencies, industry, associations, public interest groups, and Native American tribes. Each supports national uniformity of regulations and enforcement activities and the safe transportation of hazardous materials by air, rail, highway, and water.

Through RSPA's outreach programs, participants meet, obtain training in hazardous materials transportation, and discuss issues of mutual concern. For information call OHMIT at (202) 366-4900.

Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)

RSPA and its counterparts in Canada and Mexico publish the ERG which addresses all hazardous materials regulated by DOT along with suggested initial response actions in the event of a hazardous materials incident (spill, explosion, fire, etc.). The ERG is updated periodically to accommodate new technology. It is available from the DOT to first responders--police, fire, and other public safety personnel. The goal is to have an ERG in every emergency response vehicle nationwide. To date, more than seven million copies have been distributed to the emergency response community. The ERG is available in English, Spanish, and French.

Hazardous Materials Internet Website

RSPA's Hazardous Materials Safety (HMS) Internet website (<http://hazmat.dot.gov>) is designed to disseminate information about the agency's programs and activities and to assist the hazmat community in complying with the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR). The website is updated monthly to reflect

current HMS activities and includes: 49 CFR Parts 100-185, recent rulemakings, exemptions to the HMR, letters of clarification on the HMR, upcoming public meetings and conferences, international activities, frequently requested documents and files, the ERG, Incident Report Form DOT F 5800.1 and instructions, and Registration Program Form DOT F 5800.2.

Registration Program

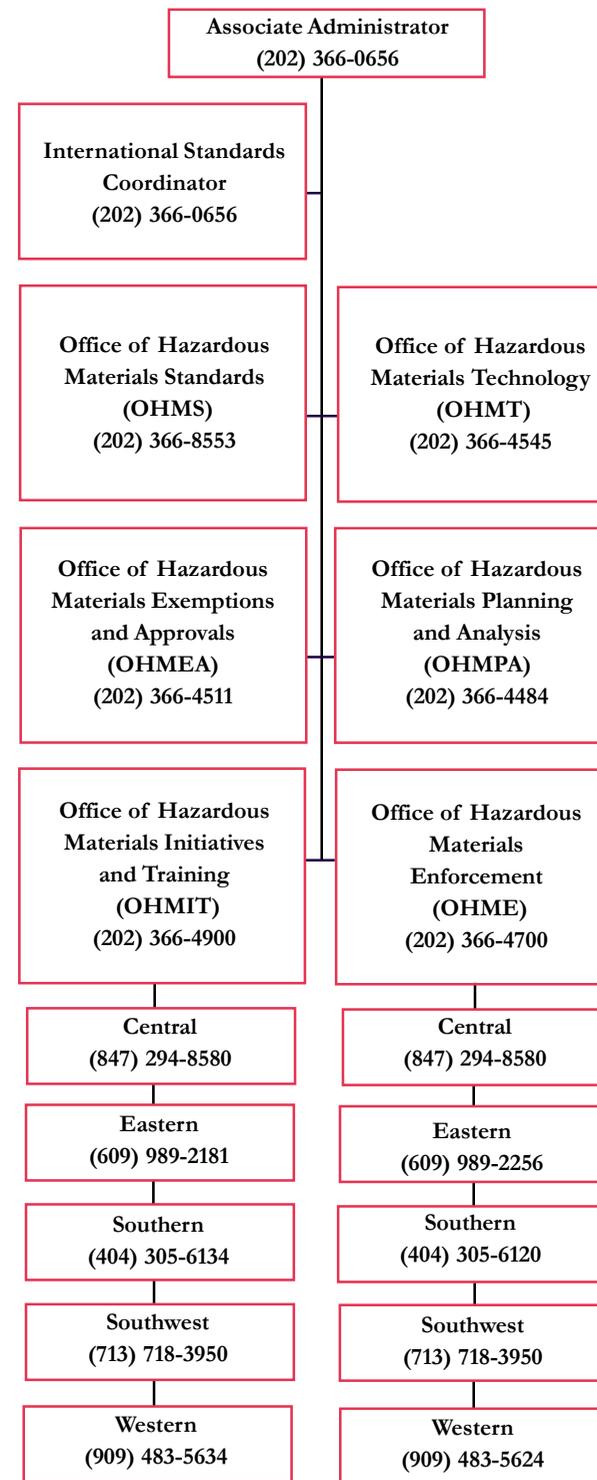
The Hazardous Materials Registration Program was established in 1992, as a result of a mandate by the Federal hazardous materials transportation law. Individuals who transport or offer for transportation certain types or quantities of hazardous materials must register annually and pay a fee to DOT. These fees fund emergency planning and training grants to states, territories, and Native American tribes. Emergency planning and training helps communities prepare for hazardous materials emergencies. For information call (202) 366-4109.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFO-CENTER



**1-800-467-4922
OR
(202) 366-4488**

By using our 800 telephone number, you can obtain hazardous materials transportation information and copies of rulemakings and training materials, or report alleged violations of the HMR. INFO-CENTER specialists are on duty Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM Eastern standard time; however, you may call anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and leave a message. A specialist will return your call before the end of the next business day.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY



U.S. Department of Transportation
**Research and Special Programs
Administration**

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY

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

Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety

RSPA is responsible for formulating, issuing, and revising hazardous materials regulations and exemptions under the Federal hazardous materials transportation law. The HMR cover hazardous materials definitions and classifications, hazard communications, 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 packaging manufacturers, retesters and reconditioners, and multimodal shippers of hazardous materials. RSPA uses risk management principles to understand, communicate, and reduce dangers inherent in hazardous materials transportation.

Hazmat Standards

The Office of Hazardous Materials Standards (OHMS) develops and issues amendments to the HMR based on requests received from the general public, industry and other government agencies; congressional mandates; rulemaking proposals from the modal administrations; and RSPA initiatives. These proposals 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 is encouraged through the solicitation of comments on rulemaking proposals.

Exemptions & Approvals

The Office of Hazardous Materials Exemptions and Approvals (OHMEA) grants exemptions to the HMR and approves the performance of certain functions as provided in the HMR. Many unusual shipping situations and technological advances which are not addressed in existing regulations may be allowed on a case-by-case basis under an exemption, provided that the level of safety is 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 packagings or shipping methods previously authorized by exemptions. Approvals are granted to individuals who demonstrate that they meet requirements to perform certain functions, or that their products meet standards to be safely shipped in commerce, as set forth in the regulations.

Inspection & Enforcement

The Office of Hazardous Materials Enforcement (OHME) has six operational units: one headquarters unit and five regional offices. The OHME conducts inspections of packaging manufacturers, certifiers, retesters, and reconditioners to determine compliance with manufacturing and testing requirements. It also conducts inspections of shippers to determine compliance with packaging, marking, labeling, and documentation requirements. The OHME tests packagings for compliance. The OHME provides assistance to and conducts joint inspections with other DOT modal administrations, other Federal agencies, and state enforcement agencies. The OHME also conducts outreach regarding compliance with the regulations.

Publications & Training

Training, outreach, and information dissemination are important responsibilities of the Office of Hazardous Materials Initiatives and Training (OHMIT). To promote compliance with the HMR, 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 material compliance, enforcement, and emergency response. New emphasis is being placed on PC-based self-study programs through a CD-ROM modular training series. Classroom training is provided by the staff of the Transportation Safety Institute, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and at selected sites throughout the country.

Planning & Analysis

The Office of Hazardous Materials Planning and Analysis (OHMPA) supports RSPA's mission activities and identifies emerging, broad-based safety issues with emphasis on a strategic perspective. OHMPA coordinates the development of programmatic plans and accompanying budget documents. The office conducts economic, operational, and benefit-cost analyses to yield defensible regulatory and other responses to hazardous materials transportation issues.

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. 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.

Technology

The Office of Hazardous Materials Technology (OHMT) provides the scientific, engineering, and risk management support for the hazardous materials transportation safety program and the development of domestic and international regulations. OHMT also serves as the focal point for domestic and international radioactive materials transportation operations and standards.

To facilitate hazardous materials transportation risk management, OHMT applies rigorous and systematic

approaches to understanding the characteristics of hazardous materials, the health problems caused by exposure, and the technology and management practices that can reduce the probability and consequences of incidents. The office conducts key investigations and research in the areas of classification, packaging, operational controls, testing, quality, risk analysis, and risk management to provide a sound basis for program operation and regulatory and non-regulatory actions.

International Activities

RSPA represents the United States in meetings of international organizations involved in the safe transportation of hazardous materials (dangerous goods) to harmonize domestic and international requirements. These organizations include:

- The UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods,
- The Economic Commission for Europe Joint Meeting of European Highway and Rail Authorities,
- The International Maritime Organization,
- The International Civil Aviation Organization,
- The International Atomic Energy Agency, and
- The NAFTA Working Group on Hazardous Materials Transportation.

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:

U.S. Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration
400 Seventh St., SW, DHM-50
Washington, DC 20590-0001

(202) 366-2301