



Hazmat Help

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© Safety Specialists, Inc. Charlotte, NC (704) 573-0955 ken@hazmathelp.com

Emergency Response Information Changes

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued a final rule on October 19, 2009 regarding the Hazardous Materials Regulations emergency response information requirements. PHMSA added requirements as well as clarified existing requirements of the emergency response information regulations.

NEW REQUIREMENTS

PHMSA added emergency response requirements concerning emergency response service subscriber information. These new rules have a compliance effective date of October 1, 2010. Voluntary compliance begins November 18, 2009.

Emergency response service subscriber information

In addition to the emergency response telephone number provided on hazardous materials shipping documents, shippers (offerors) who utilize an emergency response service provider will be required to include basic identification information. This basic information includes the name or contract number of the person (company) with agreement with the emergency response service provider (i.e. ChemTrec, Infotrac, etc.).

Where to document information?

This basic information (name or contract number) must be indicated before, after, above or below the emergency response telephone number. This information must be prominent and clearly visible.

Example

Emergency Contact: 1-800-123-4567 - SSI Corporation
or

Emergency Contact: 1-800-123-4567 - Contract #593

Consolidated or reforwarded shipments

Freight forwarders, NVOCC, consolidators, brokers, etc. who prepare hazardous materials shipping papers for continued transportation must comply with all of the emergency response information requirements of 172.600-604.

If the person (company) preparing the shipping papers chooses to assume responsibility for the emergency response requirements for the shipment then they must comply with the requirements of the HMR such as:

- Provide emergency response telephone number on the shipping papers
- Send emergency response service provider applicable information (MSDS, etc) to respond to an emergency situation. This must be done prior to offering the shipment; and

- Provide the basic identification information (name or contract number of subscriber) on the shipping papers.

If the person (company) preparing the shipping papers chooses NOT to assume responsibility for the emergency response requirements for the shipment then they must comply with the requirements of the HMR such as:

- Provide emergency response telephone number from the original shipper(s) (offerors) on the shipping papers.
- Provide the basic identification information (name or contract number) from the original shipper(s) (offerors) on the shipping papers.

CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS

PHMSA also clarified requirements of the emergency response information regulations.

Documentation of emergency response telephone numbers

Emergency response telephone numbers must be:

- Entered immediately following description of hazardous materials or
- Entered once on the shipping paper and
- Be prominent, readily identifiable, and clearly visible manner and
- Information easily and quickly found by highlighting, larger font, different color font or have it apart from other information and
- This provision may be used only if the telephone number applies to each hazardous material entered on the shipping paper, and if it is indicated that the telephone number is for emergency response information (for example: "EMERGENCY CONTACT: * * *").

International numbers

International shipments must include the international access code or the "+" (plus) sign, then country code and city code, as appropriate.

Fumigated loads

Emergency response information is not required on shipment of loads which display the Fumigant marking UNLESS additional hazardous materials are present.

The emergency response information provided on shipping paper is critical to ensuring a timely and accurate response to emergency situations.