

Information Bulletin

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PHMSA Amends HazMat Regulations to Require Shipper Contact Info

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has proposed amending hazardous-materials regulations to require shippers to place basic identifying information in shipping papers to better assist emergency responders in the event of a hazmat incident.

PHMSA's notice of proposed rulemaking would require shippers – or “offerors” -- to include their names or contract numbers in the shipping papers.

Under current law, shippers who offer hazardous materials for commercial transport must provide emergency-response telephone numbers on shipping papers. But many offerors have entered into contracts with industry associations and other organizations who then take responsibility for providing detailed response information. As a result, the shipping paper contains only the number of the emergency-response service provider, and not that of the original shipper.

Recently, the International Vessel Operators Hazardous Materials Association asked PHMSA to revise the telephone-number requirement to link the emergency-response service provider with the original shipper. Valuable time is lost, the group says, when shipments are delayed while responders are trying to obtain or verify emergency-response information.

Submit comments by Aug. 31 using the Federal Rulemaking Portal:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Docket No.: 2006-26322 (HM 206F).

Information: Joan McIntyre, PHMSA, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards, (202) 366-8553. See the July 2 Federal Register, pp. 35961-35966, at:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr>



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