



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF ENFORCEMENT POLICY REGARDING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) understands that many offerors and carriers of hazardous materials continue to experience difficulty in either obtaining or providing recurrent training as required by the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR, 49 CFR Parts 171-180).

Therefore, PHMSA gives notice that it will continue to not take enforcement action against any offeror or carrier who is unable to provide recurrent training consistent with HMR training requirements until October 31, 2020. The March 25, 2020, enforcement discretion was in response to unprecedented changes in business practices related to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) public health emergency and was intended to minimize disruptions in the supply-chain.¹ This enforcement discretion will continue to be exercised by the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, PHMSA, and the United States Coast Guard.

PHMSA does want to take this opportunity to remind employers that the HMR does not require training to be provided in a traditional classroom setting or through on the job training. Any method of training delivery, including web-based, self-paced computer instruction, remotely delivered classroom instruction, on the job training, or some combination of those methods that cover the required elements in 49 CFR 172 Subpart H are acceptable. PHMSA encourages the utilization of any of these training methods to ensure hazmat employees are provided appropriate recurrent training even if testing is not possible.

This notice of extension is limited to the recurrent training requirements found in 49 CFR 172.704(c)(2). Offerors and carriers must comply with all other obligations under the HMR and other applicable laws. This notice of extension will remain in effect until October 31, 2020. Following the expiration of this notice of extension, offerors and carriers are expected to be in full compliance with the recurrent training requirements found in 49 CFR 172.704(c)(2).

Issued June 24, 2020, in Washington D.C.

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for Hazardous Materials Safety

¹ See March 25, 2020, enforcement discretion at: <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/news/phmsa-enforcement-policy-notice-regarding-training-requirements>