

98-10: Hazardous Materials Transportation: Registration and Fee Assessment Program

Information

Action

INFORMATION

The Research and Special Projects Administration RSPA just announced the deadline and the cost for the 1998-1999 Hazardous Materials Registration Program. (Federal Register of April 20, 1998 at page 19573) All persons (companies) that transport or offer for transportation certain hazardous materials are required annually to file a registration statement and pay a fee. **This year, the fee will be \$300.00 and is due on July 1st, 1998.** There will be an automatic mailing to persons who registered last year. The registration form can also be found on the inter net at <http://hazmat.dot.gov/register/htm>

Persons required to register are generally those that offer **or transport** in commerce any of the following materials. (There are some exceptions primarily for governmental agencies.)

Any highway route controlled quantity of class 7 radioactive material.

More than 25 kg of a Division 1.1,1.2,or 1.3 (explosive) material in a motor vehicle, rail car or freight container.

More than one liter package of a material extremely toxic by inhalation (that is a material that is poisonous by inhalation that meets the criteria for hazard zone A),

A hazardous material in a bulk packaging having a capacity equal to or greater than 13,248 liters (3500 gallons) for liquids or gases or more than 13.24 cu m (468 cu ft) for solids of

A shipment in other than a bulk packaging, of 2268 kilograms (5000 lb.) gross weight or more of a class of hazardous materials for which placarding of a vehicle, rail car, or freight container is required for that class.

The funds collected are used to fund grants to state, local and Native American tribal governments for emergency response training and planning. The 1996 funds helped provide: (1) Training for about 120,000 emergency responders; (2) Approximately 520 commodity flow studies; (3) 5650 emergency response plans updated or written for the first time; (4) Assistance to 1850 local emergency planning committees; (5) 800 emergency exercises

The amount of the registration fee is currently under discussion within RSPA (although per this Federal Register, it appears that the assessment will remain stable this year.) RSPA is considering raising the fee as Congress has not funded them to accomplish all of the training, and the registration fees do not cover all of it either. Statutorily, the fees could be raised up to a maximum of \$5000. PMA has offered preliminary comment to RSPA stating that the fees should not be increased. We have cited the lack of complete company registration at the current registration fee level. (e.g. Trucking Companies, and NVOCCs); the burden we shoulder to train our people in HAZMAT without assistance, and the lack of information or evaluation as to the effective use of the funds.

ACTION

Employers should take note of the registration requirement, and the proposals for increasing the registration in the future. Employers should ensure contractors hauling containers requiring registration to/from their facilities are in conformance with the registration requirement. (The registration number is required to be available on board each truck and each vessel used to transport hazardous materials subject to the registration requirements.)

Encl: Federal Register notice pp 19573-19574