

## 04-03; Background Checks Required for CDL Hazmat Endorsements

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### **SAFETY BULLETIN #4-03**

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Background Checks Required for CDL Hazmat Endorsements

On May 5th, 2003 the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) published interim final regulations **specifying the standards** for the background check that is required for all persons wishing to obtain a hazmat endorsement on their commercial drivers license.

Simultaneously, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration issued a companion interim final rule to **require the background check for CDL hazmat endorsements** and requires state DMVs to implement the requirements prior to issuance of the endorsement. State compliance is required by November 3, 2003. Comments on both these interim final rules are solicited and due before July 7, 2003.

Finally, the Research and Special Projects Administration (RSPA) **linked the CDL hazmat endorsement requirement to the carriage of hazardous materials over the highway**. Comments on this interim final rule is solicited and due before June 4, 2003.

The TSA rules are significant in that they specify what is likely to be the common background check standard that will be required for all transportation workers.

Employers should note that the regulations apply to all marine terminal employees currently required to have CDL licenses with hazmat endorsements. Examples include gearmen who might drive fuel trucks over the road, or persons draying placarded containers between terminals.

Copies of these regulations may be obtained from PMA Area TAPD offices.