



REGULATORY ALERT

Action Item

June 5, 2006

Changes to the Shipping Paper Retention Period

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued a final rule changing the retention period for a shipper or carrier required to maintain a copy of the shipping paper for a shipment of hazardous material. PHMSA also changed the term "Exemptions" to "Special Permits."

Shipping paper retention period

The previous requirements in 172.201(a), for anyone introducing a shipment of hazardous materials requiring shipping papers into transportation was 375 days, PHMSA has now split the retention period for these documents.

Shippers: If you offer a shipment of hazardous materials into transportation you must maintain a copy of the shipping papers (electronic or paper) at or through your principal place of business, for 2 years from the date the hazmat was offered to the carrier.

Motor Carriers: 177.817(f) has been revised to require motor carriers to maintain a copy of the shipping papers for a period of 1 year from the date of acceptance of the shipment of hazardous materials from the shipper.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these changes with a member of the NATC staff, please call us at 609-426-0555.

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