HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY TIP

FREIGHT RAIL TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

OVERVIEW: The **T**ransportation **S**ecurity **A**dministration (**TSA**) issued a final rule effective December 26, 2008, to enhance the security of the Nation's rail transportation system.

The final rule established security requirements for:

1. Freight railroad carriers;
2. Intercity, commuter, and short-haul passenger train service providers;
3. Rail transit systems; and
4. Rail operations at certain, fixed-site facilities that ship or receive specified hazardous materials by rail.

FREIGHT RAIL TRANSPORTATION: In developing the final rule, TSA identified and addressed threats to rail transportation, both passenger and freight rail. Regarding freight rail transportation specifically, TSA considered how an open infrastructure environment can make freight trains particularly vulnerable to attack.

The final rule codifies the scope of TSA's existing inspection program and requires regulated parties to allow TSA and DHS officials to enter, inspect, and test property, facilities, conveyances, and records relevant to rail security. The final rule further requires that:

1. Regulated parties designate rail security coordinators and report significant security concerns.
2. Rail carriers and certain facilities handling specified hazardous materials be able to report:
   - location and shipping information to TSA upon request, and
   - implement chain of custody requirements to ensure a positive and secure exchange of specified hazardous materials.

The above-referenced security requirements established by the TSA's final rule of 2008 are outlined in 49 CFR Part 1580. Major topics include:

- Subpart A - General Information
- Subpart B – Security Programs
- Subpart C – Operations
- Appendix A – High-Threat Urban Areas
- Appendix B – Security-Sensitive Functions for Rail

Source: TSA