

Information Bulletin

HAZMAT Employee Training Awareness

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Tracking No: 448

Summary:

Projects and Facilities are not recognizing need to train and qualify hazardous material (HAZMAT) employees to ensure compliance with Department of Transportation (DOT) Hazardous Materials Regulations. All personnel involved with preparing hazardous material for transport including operators, drivers waste handlers, and immediate supervisors or managers are considered HAZMAT employees and must be trained in accordance with 49 CFR 172.704, "Training Requirements."



Discussion of Activities:

During a recent management assessment of the implementation status and compliance to DOE "Hanford Sitewide Transportation Safety Document", DOE/RL-2001-36 it was discovered that some management and staff did not recognize or understand the need to train and qualify HAZMAT employees. HAZMAT employees are defined in 49 CFR 171.8 as persons who load, unload or handle hazardous materials, prepare hazardous material for transportation (prepare, load or pack containers, or apply markings, labels or placards, etc), and/or those who operate a vehicle used to transport hazardous materials onsite or offsite.

Analysis:

HNF-PRO-166 "Transportation Safety Training" identifies functional responsibilities and job categories where DOT training is required, and also identifies available courses which provide the required training. Some personnel were not aware of the procedure or that it applied to tasks their workers were performing. Individuals incorrectly assumed that hazardous waste worker courses (40 hr and 24 hr HAZWOPER) provided training required for HAZMAT employees. As a result, some workers were not properly identified as HAZMAT employees, and did not receive the required training for transporting hazardous materials.

Recommended Actions:

- Management should review the training requirements identified in HNF-PRO-166 "Transportation Safety Training" and ensure that HAZMAT employees are identified and trained to the applicable requirements.

Cost Savings/Avoidance: Not determined

Work Function: Emergency Management, Packaging and Transportation

Hazards: Other

Keywords: HAZMAT employee, Transportation Safety Training

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References: Fluor Hanford Management Assessment WSD-WS-PT-06-MA-7, HNF-PRO-166 “*Transportation Safety Training*”, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 172, Subpart H, “*Training*”, DOE/RL-2001-36 “*Hanford Sitewide Transportation Safety Document*”