



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

August 24, 2012

Dear Stakeholder:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is hosting a series of half-day workshops on Hazardous Materials Automated Cargo Communications for Efficient and Safe Shipments (HM-ACCESS) at the Courtyard Capitol Hill/Navy Yard, 140 L Street SE, in Washington, DC 20003. The schedule below identifies the specific groups, dates, and times when we ask for your attendance:

1. Emergency responders, Thursday, September 27, 2012, 9am - noon.
2. Law enforcement, Thursday, September 27, 2012, 1pm - 4pm.
3. Shippers, Friday, September 28, 2012, 9am - noon.
4. Carriers, Friday, September 28, 2012, 1pm - 4pm.

HM-ACCESS is at an exciting crossroads. Some large organizations, both private and public, have already moved to paperless communications, including Hazardous Materials (HazComm). These changes are driven by economies of scale and proven efficiencies. PHMSA wants to ensure that the concerns of safety professionals and smaller businesses are not overlooked in the process of accelerating the implementation of these new technologies. With the help of the Volpe Center, our Chief of Research and Development, James Simmons, has done an outstanding job identifying the needs and obstacles in implementing HM-ACCESS across all transportation modes over the past several months.

Stakeholders identified above will have the opportunity to review and revise the results of this data gathering at these workshops. To enable participation, the workshops will be accessible by teleconference, and this information will be sent to you shortly. The workshops' goal is to produce as many as four White Papers, one to two pages in length each. The papers are intended to serve as catalysts for the successful, broader implementation of HM-ACCESS. For example, one paper may focus on the information required within the first 15 minutes of a transportation incident involving Hazardous Materials. This is a valuable step in preparing for a Public Meeting that will take place later in the fall to recap our progress and seek additional input.

Whether or not your organization has already adopted or intends to adopt a paperless HM communication system or concept, now, sometime in the future, or not at all, it is in your organization's best interests to remain informed on this effort. Do not hesitate to contact Carole LeBlanc, my Director of Engineering and Research at 202-366-1655 or carole.leblanc@dot.gov if you have any questions. I sincerely hope you are able to participate in the workshop(s), and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. El-Sibaie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Magdy El-Sibaie
Associate Administrator for
Hazardous Materials Safety