

U.S. Department
of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration

NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY POLICY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF CERTAIN ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER PRODUCTS DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is aware that because of the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency, there has been a notable increase in the demand for products used for sanitization purposes - many of which contain alcohol and may be considered a hazardous material for transportation as defined by the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR, 49 CFR Parts 171-180). PHMSA is aware of multiple companies throughout the country that are producing products such as hand sanitizer and other alcohol based products to help respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

To continue to facilitate the increased availability of products during this public health emergency, PHMSA is extending the temporary relief from certain HMR requirements while maintaining an appropriate level of safety for companies that are producing hand sanitizer during this time. In addition, PHMSA is expanding all relief provided in the April 10, 2020 Notice to transportation by rail in addition to transportation by highway. Shipments by other modes of transportation must meet all requirements of the HMR unless relief has been provided elsewhere.

Therefore, PHMSA gives notice that it will continue to not take enforcement action against any offeror or carrier offering or transporting sanitizing and disinfecting materials in accordance with the April 10, 2020 Notice of Enforcement Discretion through October 31, 2020. After October 31, 2020, this relief expires and all affected parties are expected to be in full compliance with the HMR.

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for Hazardous Materials Safety

¹ See April 10, 2020, enforcement discretion at: https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/news/temporary-relief-notice-transportation-hand-sanitizer-during-covid-19-emergency-revised