

WHAT ARE PHMSA'S R- AND M-NUMBER APPROVALS?

PHMSA previously issued Registration number (R-number) Approvals to manufacturers and companies that recondition packagings related to hazardous materials (hazmat), such as drum reconditioners. The basis for these approvals are 49 CFR § 173.28.

PHMSA no longer issues R-numbers and transitioned to issuing M-number approvals to replace R-numbers; however, many R-numbers are still active and in use. Historically, neither R-numbers nor M-numbers (issued prior to 2010) were issued with expiration dates.

HOW ARE PHMSA'S R- AND M-NUMBER APPROVALS USED?

R- and M-number Approvals are used to mark packagings in lieu of the manufacturer's name and address, § 178.503(a)(8). PHMSA's field investigators use these R- and M-numbers when attempting to perform necessary safety inspections of manufacturing facilities.

M-number Approvals—the same as R-number Approvals—that were issued prior to 2010 have no expiration date. And M-number Approvals issued after 2010 have a 5-year expiration date.

HOW WILL THIS HELP YOU?

PHMSA's new M-number Approvals with a 5-year expiration will ensure that applicants are subject to the same renewal timelines and requirements. This Approval process will assist Approval holders, and others, to monitor the validity of their approval, renew in a timely manner, and search and determine compliance using the updated listing on PHMSA's webpage. It also will allow companies to maintain their public notoriety without disruption during the update processes.

HOW WILL THIS HELP PHMSA?

PHMSA's new M-number Approvals with a 5-year expiration will provide standardization and consistency of PHMSA's Approvals process. It will create a reliable database of M-number Approval holders, ensuring both the regulated public and PHMSA's enforcement teams have access to current and verifiable data. It will allow PHMSA to regularly review Approval documents and track changes. And by PHMSA requiring R- and M-number Approval holders to now modify their Approvals requires them to re-establish contact with PHMSA so that PHMSA is better able to communicate with the regulated industry and public.

For additional information contact:
The Hazardous Materials Info Center
1-800-467-4922
E-mail: infocntr@dot.gov
<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov>



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

East Building, 2nd Floor
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590
202-366-4433
202-366-3666 (Fax)



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



TERMINATION (MODIFICATION) OF R-NUMBER AND M-NUMBER APPROVALS (WITHOUT EXPIRATION)

WWW.PHMSA.DOT.GOV

WHY ARE R- AND M-NUMBER APPROVALS (WITHOUT EXPIRATION) BEING TERMINATED?

PHMSA no longer issues R-number Approvals and has transitioned to M-number Approvals that include expiration dates in an effort to accurately locate and verify manufacturing facilities prior to performing safety inspections. Without possessing M-number Approvals with expiration dates, companies could have potentially moved or changed their status without notifying PHMSA, thus causing a burden on the public and regulated industries. PHMSA will issue new (modified) M-number approvals with 5-year expirations in an effort to standardize Approvals, and to ensure PHMSA stays notified of businesses that are still operating, as well as their current location.

HOW WERE STAKEHOLDERS NOTIFIED?

PHMSA has notified industry of this new M-number Approval with expiration date change by:

- Publishing notification in the Federal Register Notice Docket No. PHMSA-2017-0084; Notice No. 2017-03, published November 17, 2017,
- Announcing notification of this change at various Public Meetings,
- Broadcasting a webinar on this change in May 2018,
- Uploading the webinar onto YouTube for the public's viewing in June 2018, located at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXUZTtQsykE>, and
- Publishing this guidance document.

WHAT ARE THE NEW REQUIREMENTS?

All Approvals must now have M-numbers valid for 5 years.

- All R- and M-number approvals (without the 5-year expiration) will be terminated on **November 17, 2018**, unless approval holders apply for this new M-number Approval number, which will include the new 5-year expiration.
- Current R-numbers can now be linked to new M-numbers to include a 5-year expiration.
- The deadline to request a new M-number to include a 5-year expiration is **November 17, 2018**.
- Any administrative changes/modifications to M-number approvals must be reported to PHMSA.

HOW DO I COMPLY?

If you currently hold an R-number Approval and apply before the **November 17, 2018**, deadline:

- Contact PHMSA (details at right) to request a new M-number Approval—and include your R-number.
- You will receive an M-number valid for 5 years.
- You may use this M-number immediately.
- Your new M-number will be linked to your current R-number.
- You may continue to use your R-number as long as your new linked M-number (with 5-year expiration) is valid/current.

If you currently hold an M-number (with no expiration date) and apply before the **November 17, 2018**, deadline:

- Contact PHMSA (details at right) to update it to a new M-number with 5-year expiration date.
- You will keep the same M-number—it will now be valid for 5 years.

If you wish to request/register for a new M-number Approval with a 5-year expiration:

- Send an e-mail to Approvals@dot.gov
 - Provide all the information required by 49 CFR § 107.705.
 - Include your name, company name, facility, address, and telephone number
 - Include your R-number (if applicable)
 - Include your M-number (if applicable)

OR, using your (above) information:

- Call **(202) 366-4535** or **(800) 467-4922**
- Register on line: <https://portal.phmsa.dot.gov>

For more information, and a guide that will walk you through creating a profile and submitting an on-line application, use the link below:

- <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/pressure-vessels-approvals/m-symbol>

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR THIS R- AND M-NUMBER APPROVAL CHANGE?

On **November 17, 2018**, PHMSA will issue a new Federal Register Notice to terminate all R- and M-number Approvals that do not have an expiration date.