

**CHAPTER 3**  
**OFFICE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY**  
**FIELD OPERATIONS**  
**ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

**SECTION 3.1- PHMSA MISSION**

PHMSA's primary mission under the Federal hazmat law is "to protect the Nation adequately against the risks to life and property which are inherent in the transportation of hazardous materials in commerce" (49 U.S. C. 5101). To accomplish this mission, safety regulations must be developed and enforced.

It is the task of PHMSA's investigators to determine compliance with safety standards by inspecting commercial entities that offer hazardous materials for transportation; manufacture, rebuild, repair, recondition, or retest packaging used to transport hazardous materials; and handle inter-modal transfers of hazardous materials. To do this in a most effective manner, PHMSA enforcement uses internal and external data to evaluate risk and prioritize its efforts according to the risk to the general public.

While the primary mission of PHMSA's hazardous materials enforcement program is to gain compliance with the hazardous materials regulations, PHMSA is committed to having the regional offices serve as contact points for state and local enforcement organizations. PHMSA regional staff is available to provide training and technical assistance when requested, in conducting hazardous materials compliance inspections of shippers and other similar facilities.

PHMSA hazmat investigators engage in various outreach activities with Federal, state, and industry organizations to foster compliance with the regulations. Investigators attend industry meetings to provide information and answer questions. Finally, investigators conduct seminars and workshops to specific industry groups on particular compliance issues.

**SECTION 3.2- HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION MISSION**

The Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, Enforcement Division serves to ensure transportation safety and security by providing compliance oversight of entities affecting the movement of hazardous materials in the United States and its territories.

### SECTION 3.3- HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION VISION

Our vision is to reduce the risks inherent to hazardous materials movement.

### SECTION 3.4- HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION VALUES

The core values are: *Public – Professional – Excellence*

- **Public** safety and environmental protection are our ultimate goals.
- **Professional** representation of PHMSA enhances the hazardous materials leadership role of the agency.
- **Excellence** to commitment in properly executing our investigator duties ensures the trust of the public, PHMSA, and the Department of Transportation.

In the execution of this program, the Enforcement Division strives to promote safety and security in hazardous materials transportation through inspections, investigations, enforcement, and outreach to reduce incidents, accidents, deaths, injuries, and property damage attributed to the unsafe manufacture or maintenance of hazardous materials packaging or shipments thereof. An investigators adherence to the guidelines specified in this manual will enhance their ability to successfully accomplish this important mission.