



# Inspection Bulletin

## North American Standard Inspection Program

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### 2020-03 – Identifying Undeclared Hazardous Materials Shipments

Created: Feb. 07, 2020

#### Summary

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) initiated the *Check the Box* ([checkthebox.dot.gov](http://checkthebox.dot.gov)) campaign to raise awareness and support for the reduction of undeclared hazardous materials shipments (as defined in 49 CFR §171.8) by all modes of transportation. The goal of *Check the Box* is to keep undeclared hazardous materials from entering the supply chain through the development of a unified outreach strategy with stakeholders. To accomplish this goal, PHMSA needs information on undeclared hazardous materials shipments.

#### Background

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) are partnering with PHMSA on this effort and are focused on the identification and reduction of undeclared hazardous materials in highway transportation. FMCSA is, therefore, committed to providing PHMSA with information on highway shipments of undeclared hazardous materials detected during roadside inspections. In turn, PHMSA will use this information to identify and educate persons who introduce undeclared hazardous materials into the supply chain.

To facilitate this information gathering, FMCSA created an email address where enforcement, industry and the general public can report the discovery of undeclared hazardous materials during transit. That email address is: [FMCSA.UndeclaredHM@dot.gov](mailto:FMCSA.UndeclaredHM@dot.gov).

#### Inspection Guidance

Roadside inspectors are an important part of this effort. During daily roadside inspection duties, if undeclared hazardous materials are discovered, an email should be sent to the address above with the following information:

1. Motor carrier name;
2. USDOT number;
3. Shipper / Offeror name;
4. Shipper / Offeror address, phone, email, or other identifying and contact information;
5. Date of discovery;
6. Location of discovery;
7. Type and quantity of hazardous materials discovered; and
8. If possible, a copy of the roadside inspection report and any pictures or other documentation collected.

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Information collected will be used by FMCSA and PHMSA to develop the unified outreach strategy for the *Check the Box* campaign. Additionally, at FMCSA's and PHMSA's discretion, the information may be used to track reports of undeclared hazardous materials discovered through roadside inspections where the motor carrier needs to submit a hazardous materials incident report (DOT Form F5800.1), pursuant to §49 CFR 171.16(a)(4).

For more information on *Check the Box*, visit <https://www.transportation.gov/check-the-box> or contact Joan Segura at [joan.segura@dot.gov](mailto:joan.segura@dot.gov).



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Motor Carrier Safety  
Administration**



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