



Bureau of Explosives

Handling hazardous materials was the business of the Bureau of Explosives (BOE) long before the name "hazmat" existed.

The BOE was founded in 1907 by the railroad industry to serve as a self-policing agency to promote the safe transportation of explosives and other hazardous materials.



BOE Membership Benefits

The BOE is a unique membership organization dedicated to helping shippers, carriers, and container manufacturers comply with the hazardous materials regulations. All railroad members and associate members of the Association of American Railroads are full members of the BOE. Affiliate memberships are available to:

- Producers and shippers of hazardous materials.
- Container manufacturers, repair, or reconditioning companies
- Rail, highway, pipeline, and marine carriers of hazardous materials
- Anyone interested in the safe transportation and storage of hazardous materials

We Did It First

The BOE wrote the first hazardous materials regulations, which were subsequently adopted and expanded upon by the Interstate Commerce Commission and later the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). In fact, the BOE is still referenced in the Code of Federal Regulations today.

Our Inspectors

BOE inspectors are the backbone of our service. Strategically placed throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico, they work with shippers of hazard materials everyday performing regulatory compliance audits and training services for shippers and carriers.

Our inspectors reside in the following locations to better serve our customers:

- Los Angeles, CA
- Kansas City, MO
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Atlanta, GA
- Baton Rouge, LA
- Chicago, IL
- Texarkana TX
- Houston, TX
- Richmond, VA
- Toronto, ON*
- Montreal, QC*
- Calgary, AB*
- Saltillo, Coah, Mexico

*Employed by the Railway Association of Canada

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The Advantages of BOE Training

BOE offers personalized training and testing covering the relevant regulatory requirements of hazmat employee training and testing required by CFR 49, §172.702, Subpart H, for general awareness and familiarization, function specific, and recurrent training. We emphasize common hazmat safety and regulatory compliance problems that our veteran inspectors have encountered in the field. But BOE's training modules go beyond the basics and exceed DOT's training requirements by including the following:

- General Awareness/Familiarization
- Shipping Papers
- Marking and Labeling
- Placarding
- Packaging
- Tank Car Loading/Unloading
- Cargo Tank Loading/Unloading
- Tank Car Shop Requirements
- Tank Car Repairs
- Railroad Operations
- Railroad Hazmat Rules
- Security Awareness

Who is a Hazmat Employee?

Hazmat employees include those who:

- Prepare the packages for shipping
- Prepare, sign, or review the paperwork
- Load or unload trucks and railcars or receive the hazardous materials
- Responsible for the safety of hazardous materials in transportation
- Operate a vehicle used to transport hazardous materials

Federal regulations, CFR 49 §172.702, require that each employer whose employees work with hazardous materials (as defined in sections CFR 49 §171 and §172) must train and test each of its hazmat employees.

Having trouble understanding the hazmat regulations?

The BOE has the expertise to train and test customers in the Canadian, IMDG, U.S., and Mexican regulations and can deliver this training in either English, French, or Spanish. To ensure compliance with U.S. DOT's record-keeping requirements, BOE Inspectors issue certificates for all employees who successfully complete training and testing with a description of the training materials used.

How Else Can We Help You?

The Bureau of Explosives offers a variety of other services including:

- Confidential inspections to evaluate compliance with hazardous materials regulations
- An annual seminar dedicated entirely to hazardous materials transportation issues. The next AAR/BOE Hazmat Seminar will be held May 20-22, 2008 at the Millennium Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri.
- A variety of hazardous materials publications (www.boepublications.com)
- Certification and re-certification inspections of tank car repair facilities to ensure compliance with the AAR *Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices*, M-1002
- Quality assurance audits as prescribed by the AAR *Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices*, M-1003
- Statistical data on railroad hazardous materials incidents useful for risk management analysis
- Hazardous materials shipping descriptions database for shippers and carriers and emergency response

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