

U.S. Department of Transportation

Principal Areas of Regulatory Jurisdiction

The U.S. Department of Transportation is charged with developing and enforcing regulations that apply to the interstate transportation of goods and passengers in commerce. Areas of jurisdiction include all modes of interstate transportation including highway, pipeline, railroad, water, and air, and intrastate transportation of hazardous materials.

Important Agencies Within the Department

Functions of U.S. DOT directly related to shippers, carriers, and pipelines are carried out by the following agencies:

- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
- Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

Relationship to State Regulatory Programs

Jurisdiction of intrastate transportation of hazardous materials is shared with designated authorities of state, territorial governments and Indian Tribal agencies, although federal regulations preempt state, territorial, tribal or local government transportation regulations that typically apply to the propane industry. Therefore, state jurisdiction is primarily limited to enforcement of the federal DOT regulations.

Scope of Compliance Covered By This Regulatory Compliance Guide

This Regulatory Compliance Guide focuses only on the U.S. Department of Transportation regulations that typically apply to most propane industry operations. Users of this guide should also consult state regulations and agencies if a question arises concerning a particular intrastate transportation issue, or any DOT function relating to local jurisdictional matters such as vehicle registration, permits, licensing, insurance and proof of financial responsibility, transportation incident and accident reporting, reporting of hazardous materials spills or releases, or other similar state or local jurisdiction regulatory issues.

DOT Hazardous Materials Transportation Functions Transferred to the Department of Homeland Security

U.S. DOT took a secondary, but coordinating role regarding transportation security issues with the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The principal propane transportation related agencies of DHS are:

- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

