



Council on Safe Transportation of Hazardous Articles

July 10, 2023

Standards and Rulemaking Division
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001
Via: www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain

RE: [PHMSA 2023-0007 Notice 2023-08](#) | Hazardous Materials: Information Collection Activities

The Council on Safe Transportation of Hazardous Articles (COSTHA) respectfully submits the comments herewith, regarding the [PHMSA 2023-0007 Notice 2023-08](#), Hazardous Materials: Information Collection Activities published in the Federal Register on June 21, 2023. Specifically, COSTHA provides comments on the collection activities related to Hazardous Materials Incident Reports.

COSTHA, founded in 1972, is a not-for-profit industry association devoted to promoting regulatory compliance and safety in the international and domestic transportation of dangerous goods. COSTHA represents over 170 member companies, including shippers, carriers by highway, air, and sea, container manufacturers, chemical manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies, electronics manufacturers, personal care and other consumer product manufacturers, automobile and automobile component manufacturers, and trainers, as well as other businesses and associations involved in all aspects of transportation of dangerous goods, hazardous substances, and hazardous wastes.

COSTHA members provide comments on the following:

- 3) **ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;**
- 4) **ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.**

The immediate telephonic notification requirements provided in § 171.15 (as soon as practical/no later than 12 hours after the incident) for the initial notification creates an undue burden to the respondent when trying to actively handle or respond to the incident. Additionally, depending on the type of incident and the mode of transport, the initial telephonic notification often results in additional telephone calls from other agencies requesting information all while trying to respond and handle incident response.

Council on Safe Transportation of Hazardous Articles

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COSTHA members encourage PHMSA to consider the implementation of written notification reporting solutions to make an initial "immediate" report of hazardous materials incidents to include email or text. Written notification allows for compiling documented initial information and open a line of communication for any follow-up requests from other regulatory entities. Further, it will assist the respondent with any follow-up 5800.1 reporting requirements as they will already be documenting the details of the incident.

COSTHA appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments on this notice. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "L'Gena Shaffer".

L'Gena Shaffer
COSTHA
Director, Regulatory Compliance