



Contact our HAZMAT INFO-LINE:

For information about HAZMAT Regulations:

E-mail:

infocntr@dot.gov

Phone:

1 800 467 4922

Where to Learn More

For information about this publication and other HAZMAT Safety Training resources:

Visit our website:

<http://hazmat.dot.gov>

Write:

U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. PHH-50
Washington, DC 20590

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



DOT-Approved
**Third Party
Packaging
Certification
Agencies**

The **Benefits** of Using a
DOT-Approved **Third Party
Packaging** Certification Agency:

- **Independently Operated**
- **Internationally Recognized**
- **Qualified HAZMAT Experts**

Authority

Under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR), an Approval may be granted to a qualified organization or person to conduct package testing as a DOT-Approved Third Party Certification Agency.

Authorized Testing and Certification

These agencies may conduct testing for either manufacturers of packagings or for shippers of hazardous materials (HAZMAT). A certification from these agencies indicates that the packaging is tested in compliance with the requirements of the HMR for that packaging design type.

Review Criteria

Approvals are granted based upon the technical qualifications of the applicant as well as the results of in-person inspections to determine the capability of the laboratory in which the package testing is taking place.



DOT-Approved Third Party Certification Agencies provide a means for a packaging manufacturer or HAZMAT shipper to independently ensure that their packaging meets the requirements of the HMR for the safe transportation of HAZMAT.

HAZMAT Package Testing Experts

PHMSA grants approvals to companies or individuals who have been evaluated to meet or exceed specific safety criteria defined in the HMR, including the ability to:

- Review and evaluate design drawings and stress calculations;
- Conduct or monitor and evaluate test procedures and results;
- Review and evaluate the qualifications of materials and fabrication procedures; and
- Apply knowledge of the domestic HAZMAT regulations and, when applicable, the U.N. Recommendations and other international standards;

PHMSA Approved

PHMSA does not grant Third Party Approvals without a full review of the qualifications of the agency's laboratory technicians. This is to confirm that they have the knowledge, experience, and the capability to conduct HAZMAT packaging testing that meets requirements.

Package-specific Authority

Agencies are only authorized to conduct testing on design types for which they have the appropriate equipment and experience. Not all certification agencies can test all types of packagings. The types of packagings authorized, and their respective qualified testing agencies, can be found on their approval or on PHMSA's website:

<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov>

Routinely Audited

As a condition of their approval, PHMSA requires Third Party Certification Agencies to adhere to strict standards of accountability and oversight.

On an annual basis they must:

- Submit representative test reports to PHMSA for review.

On an ongoing basis they must:

- Allow a PHMSA inspector to review records and facilities relative to the approval or certification of packagings the agency is approved to test and certify; and
- Cooperate during inspections.

There are **about 20** Certified DOT-Approved Third Party Packaging Certification Agencies listed at the following: www.phmsa.dot.gov
Enter into the search bar: "U.N. Third Party Certification Agencies"