

§ 5109. Motor carrier safety permits

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(a) Requirement.— A motor carrier may transport or cause to be transported by motor vehicle in commerce hazardous material only if the carrier holds a safety permit the Secretary of Transportation issues under this section authorizing the transportation and keeps a copy of the permit, or other proof of its existence, in the vehicle. The Secretary shall issue a permit if the Secretary finds the carrier is fit, willing, and able—

- (1) to provide the transportation to be authorized by the permit;
- (2) to comply with this chapter and regulations the Secretary prescribes to carry out this chapter; and
- (3) to comply with applicable United States motor carrier safety laws and regulations and applicable minimum financial responsibility laws and regulations.

(b) Applicable Transportation.— The Secretary shall prescribe by regulation the hazardous material and amounts of hazardous material to which this section applies. However, this section shall apply at least to transportation by a motor carrier, in amounts the Secretary establishes, of—

- (1) a class A or B explosive;
- (2) liquefied natural gas;
- (3) hazardous material the Secretary designates as extremely toxic by inhalation; and
- (4) a highway-route-controlled quantity of radioactive material, as defined by the Secretary.

(c) Applications.— A motor carrier shall file an application with the Secretary for a safety permit to provide transportation under this section. The Secretary may approve any part of the application or deny the application. The application shall be under oath and contain information the Secretary requires by regulation.

(d) Amendments, Suspensions, and Revocations.—

(1) After notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the Secretary may amend, suspend, or revoke a safety permit, as provided by procedures prescribed under subsection (e) of this section, when the Secretary decides the motor carrier is not complying with a requirement of this chapter, a regulation prescribed under this chapter, or an applicable United States motor carrier safety law or regulation or minimum financial responsibility law or regulation.

(2) If the Secretary decides an imminent hazard exists, the Secretary may amend, suspend, or revoke a permit before scheduling a hearing.

(e) Procedures.— The Secretary shall prescribe by regulation—

- (1) application procedures, including form, content, and fees necessary to recover the complete cost of carrying out this section;
- (2) standards for deciding the duration, terms, and limitations of a safety permit;
- (3) procedures to amend, suspend, or revoke a permit; and
- (4) other procedures the Secretary considers appropriate to carry out this section.

(f) Shipper Responsibility.— A person offering hazardous material for motor vehicle transportation in commerce may offer the material to a motor carrier only if the carrier has a safety permit issued under this section authorizing the transportation.

(g) Conditions.— A motor carrier may provide transportation under a safety permit issued under this section only if the carrier complies with conditions the Secretary finds are required to protect public safety.

(h) Regulations.— The Secretary shall prescribe regulations necessary to carry out this section not later than November 16, 1991.

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