

ATTENTION: All who ship or receive specimen shipments; please alert any partners of this new label requirement that is effective Wednesday October 1, 2014. Thank you, STAT Lab

On July 20, 2011, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) published Final Rule HM-218F, bringing changes to the 49 CFR Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR). Most of the amendments that were adopted in the final rule were intended to eliminate, revise, clarify or relax regulatory requirements. Two hazard class labels were revised in the final rule and were given a transition period for compliance until October 1, 2014.

Class 6 Label Changes



Removal of CDC information on the class 6 infectious label

Prior to HM-218F, labels for Class 6 Infectious Substances were required by the HMR to include references to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The final rule removed the previously required statement "In U.S.A. Notify Director—CDC, Atlanta, GA 1-800-232-0124" from the label text. As of October 1, 2014, the statement must not appear on the Infectious Substances label.

Class 9 Label Changes



New



Old

Removal of horizontal line on the class 9 miscellaneous label

In 49 CFR, the Class 9 label was different from international regulations by including a thin, horizontal line running across the label at its midpoint. This led to some shipments being delayed or having to be relabeled by international carriers because there was no line required in the international standards such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Technical Instructions and the International Maritime Dangerous Good (IMDG) Code. HM-215F removed the requirement for the line on the Class 9 label in order to harmonize with international regulations. Compliance with the new label requirements is mandatory as of October 1, 2014.