**Updates Underway for 2020 Emergency Response Guidebook**

Work is underway to update the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) for publishing in 2020. The ERG is published every 4 years, and the current version in use is the 2016 version. The 2020 version is anticipated to be available in the spring of 2020.

**What is the ERG?**

The ERG contains emergency response information and is a handbook used by emergency and hazardous materials incident responders, truck drivers, railroad personnel, pipeline personnel, pilots, police and firefighters. It is written and updated by 4 separate international agencies:

* U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)
* Transport Canada’s Canadian Transportation Emergency Centre (CANUTEC)
* Argentina’s Chemistry Information Center for Emergencies (CIQUIME)
* Mexico’s Secretariat of Communications and Transport

iSi uses the ERG in our HAZWOPER training as well as our Hazardous Waste Management and RCRA Refresher trainings, as handling emergency spills are a component of both classes.

**Planned Updates**

The 4 agencies have been working on the new version since 2017. In 2018, all of the agencies solicited input from their public through calls for comment, listening sessions, online surveys, and articles. From these solicitations, 100 comments were gleaned to be considered for incorporation. Since then, sub-groups have been working on them. A public meeting was held on July 17 by DOT regarding its progress. Here are the presented current planned changes and items for review within each section of the book.

The agencies will:

**White Pages [General Information, Instructions, Recommendations, Guidance]**

* Review content for use of plain language;
* Improved quality of illustrations in charts;
* Add new lithium battery markings;
* Add a decontamination section; and,
* Add basic information about heat induced tears (HIT).

**Orange Pages [Response Guides]**

* Comprehensively review of all materials and their assignments in the orange pages, with certain items up for review in 2020 while others will be reviewed before the 2024 version;
* Clarify sentences;
* Address inhalation concerns for petroleum crude oil (UN1267) in Guide 128; and,
* Reevaluate radioactive materials guides with radiological/nuclear regulatory agencies.

**Yellow/Blue Pages [Materials in ID/Name of Material Order]**

* Add or remove UN numbers to align with United Nations Model regulations and North American regulations;
* Remove UN numbers for chemical warfare agents; and,
* Review polymerization hazards for certain materials.

**Green Pages [Isolation and Protective Action Distances]**

* Add distances for new Poison Inhalation Hazard/Toxic Inhalation Hazard materials added by regulations;
* Revise Table 2 introduction;
* Add container capacities to Table 3;
* Make a new border to differentiate between Tables 1, 2 and 3; and,
* Argonne National Laboratory will update the CASRAM model with outcomes from field and lab experiments.

**Where Can the Current ERG Be Found?**

A free PDF version of the current Emergency Response Guidebook is available online at <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/docs/ERG2016.pdf>. There’s also a [mobile app](https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/erg/erg2016-mobileapp) for the guide available for both Android and iPhone devices. If you’d like to purchase a hard copy for your use, [please contact us](https://isienvironmental.com/index.php/contact-us/).