In a [recent article](https://isienvironmental.com/index.php/hazmat-agency-blog/) we covered who regulates hazardous materials shipments. All methods of hazardous materials transportation have specific training requirements, but the one which often catches people by surprise is IMDG training.

If you ship hazardous materials by vessel or over water, you are required to follow the rules of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) code. This includes:

* **Loading shipping containers onsite;**
* **Having third parties load shipping containers onsite; and,**
* **Sending hazardous materials to freight forwarders or third parties to be loaded somewhere else.**

Shipping containers are used for overseas transport, but also keep in mind they are used to **transport products to U.S. states Hawaii and Alaska** as well as U.S. territories. For example, a client of ours was responsible for gathering together all the products needed for opening a new Wal-Mart. When there were new Wal-Marts in Alaska and Hawaii, those products needed to be loaded into shipping containers. Their employees then became subject to IMDG.

Keep in mind that even **small quantities can trigger requirements**. For example, we have clients who send vehicles and farm implements via vessel. Along with the vehicles are boxes of oils and lubricants for operation once unpacked. This triggers hazardous materials regulations. Even residual fluids left over from ensuring the vehicle is operating correctly before loading triggers hazardous materials regulations.

**Who Needs to Be Trained in IMDG?**

If IMDG applies to your operations, the following personnel need to have training upon employment or assignment to hazardous materials duties:

**Anyone who…**

* Classifies and/or identifies the proper shipping names of dangerous goods (hazardous materials);
* Packs dangerous goods;
* Marks, labels or placards dangerous goods;
* Load/unload dangerous goods;
* Prepare transportation documents;
* Offers or accepts dangerous goods for transport;
* Handles, loads or unloads dangerous goods into or from ships;
* Prepares dangerous goods loading/stowage plans;
* Carries dangerous goods in transport;
* Enforces, surveys or inspects dangerous goods for compliance; and is,
* Otherwise involved as determined by a competent authority.

**What are the Training Requirements?**

As with other hazardous materials training, students are required to have general awareness, safety, and function-specific training. Refreshers are required every 3 years.

Does this requirement apply to your company? iSi has [regularly scheduled IMDG courses](https://isienvironmental.com/index.php/safety-training/dot-training/) and can provide them onsite on your own schedule, at your own convenience. [Check here for our course schedule](https://isienvironmental.com/index.php/safety-training/dot-training/) or [contact us here for more information and pricing](https://isienvironmental.com/index.php/pricing/) for an onsite class at your facility!