Who Needs DOT Training?

Often we get the question, who needs DOT training? Not only are there nuances between the various agencies of DOT and the international transportation organizations DOT defers to, but often in companies there could be a number of people involved in the process, knowingly or unknowingly.

Basically, anyone involved in the process of sending hazardous materials will need to be trained. This would include anyone who:

* Purchases the packaging and/or determines it’s the correct packaging for your materials;
* Prepares the package for sending (boxes, labels, determines which box to use, etc.);
* Fills out the paperwork, choosing labels or choosing placards
* Signs off on manifests or paperwork (including sending hazardous waste);
* Loads, unloads, and handles hazmat;
* Sells, tests, reconditions, repairs or modifies packaging for use in shipping hazmat;
* Screens baggage, cargo, or mail;
* Transports hazmat or operates a vehicle transporting hazmat;
* Is a freight forwarder who accepts/transfers/handles/unloads cargo; and,
* **Anyone who supervises or trains any of the above personnel**.

Take a look at your process. Who’s involved? Do they need to be involved? Have they been trained?

Even if you have a third-party do the packaging for you, your company is still the shipper of record. That means anyone involved in the process from your end, even if it’s just one person signing paperwork, will need training. By signing paperwork, that employee certifies the hazmat is properly packaged and ready for transport. This would apply to companies you use for hazardous waste transports, crate building, or freight forwarding.

If your packages are going by ground, that is, truck or train, you’ll need DOT training with refreshers every three years. If packages are going by plane, such as overnight service, you’ll need IATA training with refreshers every two years. (Please note that unless you specify your hazmat as “ground only”, there’s a possibility it could be put onto an airplane.) If packages are going on a ship, you’ll need IMDG training with refreshers every three years. This not only includes overseas shipments, but shipments to the U.S. states such as Hawaii and Alaska.

If you need help sorting out who should be trained, or if you have employees you know need training or refreshers, contact us and we’d be happy to help! Check out our current hazmat shipping training schedule.