



Transportation
Security
Administration

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
FREIGHT RAIL SECURITY DIVISION

FREIGHT RAIL SECURITY INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

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SUBJECT: High Threat Urban Area Group Designations

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) uses the term High Threat Urban Area (HTUA) to describe and delineate those metropolitan areas that warrant special consideration with respect to transportation security. In the administration of programs in the freight rail mode, the HTUA designation serves a variety of purposes in regulation and in collaborative efforts between the private sector and government. When the original list of HTUAs was developed in 2006, 46 areas were identified as HTUAs. In the years that have followed, additional areas have been designated as HTUAs. However, the TSA programs and policies applicable to freight rail operations within these HTUAs are varied.

For administrative purposes, TSA has divided HTUAs into two groups, A and B. Group A HTUAs are those areas that are subject to TSA regulations and other risk reduction programs. Group A is comprised of the "original" 46 HTUAs that are listed and defined in Appendix A to 49 CFR Part 1580. Group B HTUAs are comprised of those areas that have been identified as eligible for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)¹, and which have been identified as an HTUA for purposes of non-regulatory assessments and risk reduction initiatives by the Freight Rail Division. Listings of the Group A and B HTUAs are included for your reference.

TSA has not expanded regulatory coverage to areas beyond the 46 HTUAs (Group A) listed in the Rail Transportation Security Rule (73FR72179). However, we do have an interest in assessing freight rail operations in the Group B HTUAs through surveys and information gathering.

For questions regarding this bulletin or other TSA Freight Rail Security information products, please e-mail freightrailsecurity@dhs.gov.

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Date

¹ TSA derived its list of HTUAs from the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) UASI program. Through the UASI program, DHS identified metropolitan areas that had a population greater than 100,000, reported threat data in the past fiscal year, and demonstrated risk through the application of a DHS risk model. The DHS risk model considered the following variables: 1) Threat, or the likelihood of a type of attack that might be attempted; 2) Vulnerability, or the likelihood that an attacker would succeed; and 3) Consequence, or the impact of an attack occurring. The UASI program focuses on enhancing regional preparedness in major metropolitan areas, and it is intended to assist participating jurisdictions in developing integrated regional systems for prevention, protection, response, and recovery.

Group A High Threat Urban Areas

Group A HTUAs are those HTUAs that are subject to the provisions of 49 CFR Part 1580. Group A HTUAs are also the areas that are officially monitored for the purpose of measuring toxic inhalation hazard material risk reduction. Group A HTUAs have also been referred to as the “original 46”.

GROUP A HIGH THREAT URBAN AREAS			
STATE	GEOGRAPHIC AREA	STATE	GEOGRAPHIC ARE
AZ	Phoenix Area	MN	Twin Cities
CA	Anaheim/Santa Ana Area	MO	Kansas City Area
CA	Bay Area	MO	St. Louis Area
CA	Los Angeles/Long Beach Area	NC	Charlotte Area
CA	Sacramento Area	NE	Omaha Area
CA	San Diego Area	NJ	Jersey City/Newark Area
CO	Denver Area	NV	Las Vegas Area
DC	National Capital Region	NY	Buffalo Area
FL	Fort Lauderdale Area	NY	New York City Area
FL	Jacksonville Area	OH	Cincinnati Area
FL	Miami Area	OH	Cleveland Area
FL	Orlando Area	OH	Columbus Area
FL	Tampa Area	OH	Toledo Area
GA	Atlanta Area	OK	Oklahoma City Area
HI	Honolulu Area	OR	Portland Area
IL	Chicago Area	PA	Philadelphia Area
IN	Indiana Area	PA	Pittsburgh Area
KY	Louisville Area	TN	Memphis Area
LA	Baton Rouge Area	TX	Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington Area
LA	New Orleans Area	TX	Houston Area
MA	Boston Area	TX	San Antonio Area
MD	Baltimore Area	WA	Seattle Area
MI	Detroit Area	WI	Milwaukee Area

Group B High Threat Urban Areas

There are 18 Group B HTUAs in 2010. Group B HTUAs are not included as areas subject to 49 CFR Part 1580; however, TSA will survey rail operations in the Group B areas. Rail carriers operating in Group B HTUAs may be eligible for Freight Rail Security Grants.

GROUP B HIGH THREAT URBAN AREAS			
STATE	GEOGRAPHIC AREA	STATE	GEOGRAPHIC ARE
AZ	Tucson Area	OK	Tulsa Area
CA	Bakersfield Area	PR	San Juan Area
CA	Riverside Area	RI	Providence Area
CA	Oxnard Area	TN	Nashville Area
CT	Bridgeport Area	TX	Austin Area
CT	Hartford Area	TX	El Paso Area
NY	Albany Area	UT	Salt Lake City Area
NY	Rochester Area	VA	Richmond Area
NY	Syracuse Area	VA	Norfolk Area