FACTSHEET

Security Training for Surface Transportation Employees

Regulatory Overview

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has issued new regulations that require higher-risk surface transportation providers to provide security training for certain employees. Additionally, TSA is expanding its requirements for the designation of security coordinators and reporting of significant security concerns, currently limited to rail operations, to include certain bus operations.

General Applicability

Consistent with TSA's commitment to a risk-based approach to transportation security, the requirements of this regulation only apply to high-risk operations. Owner/operators are required to use the criteria in 49 CFR parts 1580 (Freight Rail), 1582 (Mass Transit and Passenger Rail) and 1584 (Over-the-Road Bus) to determine if this regulation applies to its operations.

Regulatory Timeline

- Effective date of regulation - September 21, 2020
- October 21, 2020 - Deadline for notifying TSA of applicability determination (49 CFR 1570.105).
- October 28, 2020 - Deadline for providing security coordinator information to TSA (49 CFR 1570.201).
- March 22, 2021 - Deadline for submission of the security training program to TSA for approval (49 CFR 1570.109(b)).
- TSA will review the programs within 60 days of receipt and either approve them or specify changes needed for approval. If TSA requires changes, the owner/operator must submit a modified training program within a timeframe specified by TSA.
- After TSA approves the training program, owner/operators have one year to complete initial security training of its current employees in security-sensitive positions. After TSA approves the program, new employees assigned to a security-sensitive position are required to receive security training within the first 60 days of their assignment to the position.
- All security-sensitive employees must receive recurrent training every three years after initial training.

Significant Regulatory Requirements

- Regulated carriers must submit a security training program to TSA that describes how the carrier will train security-sensitive employees on how to observe, assess and respond to suspected terrorist-related threats and/or incidents and to be prepared to perform responsibilities directed by their company's existing security planning documents (see 49 CFR Parts 1580.115, 1582.115, and 1584.115 for details).
- Regulated carriers must also designate and submit to TSA the name and contact information of a primary and alternate Security Coordinator (49 CFR 1570.201).
- Report significant security concerns to TSA (49 CFR1570.203).

To view the Surface Transportation Security Training Rule in the Federal Register, click here.

Transportation Security Administration

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