



Training for Security Awareness

MODULE 9





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Introduction

While imaging labs will not typically be required to provide in-depth security training, **all** hazmat employees must be given security *awareness* training. The purpose of this security awareness training is to ensure hazardous materials do not fall into the hands of someone who used the materials to cause problems.

The security awareness training is to be consistent with the hazards of the materials that your imaging lab receives, ships or transports, and should include the following elements:

- What are the security risks associated with transporting hazardous materials
- How can security during transportation be improved
- How to recognize a security threat
- How to respond to a security threat

Risks of the Hazardous Materials

In module 2 we identified the hazards of materials typically used in imaging labs:

- Many of the photographic chemicals are corrosive liquids (class 8)
- Some inkjet inks and cleaners are flammable or combustible liquids (class 3)
- Most film cleaners are flammable liquids (class 3)

When judging the level of security risk, it's important to consider many things including the nature and quantity of hazardous materials, as well as how easy it is to access the materials both during pre-transportation as well as transportation activities. The security risks of the hazardous materials typically received and shipped by an imaging lab are minimal for the following reasons:

- The corrosive liquids are virtually all Packing Group III, which you'll remember is the lowest level of hazard. In addition, many photochemicals are shipped as limited quantity, meaning they present only a limited hazard during transportation.
- Most of the inkjet inks and cleaners are packaged as consumer commodities or limited quantities, and contain minimal amounts of ink.
- Flammable film cleaner is probably the most hazardous material in an imaging lab. Few labs, however, would ship or receive more than a single gallon container of film cleaner at any one time.

Accessibility

When it comes to accessibility, imaging labs in a retail environment typically have a locked door in the back and barriers in front to restrict non-employees. In a commercial or industrial



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environment, imaging labs also have doors that are locked from the outside and a receptionist who controls entry through the front.

While this discussion of risk is very generic, each hazmat employer must undertake a security risk assessment of his/her facility. Based on the results of this assessment, each hazmat employee must be instructed in procedures/policies designed to minimize and control any security risks associated with hazardous materials.

Recognizing a Security Threat

How do you recognize a security threat? As you read through these suggestions, you'll see that most of them are simply common sense:

- Is an employee behaving unusually? (e.g., found in areas of the lab where he/she has no reason to be, asking questions about hazardous materials)
- Is a customer behaving unusually? (e.g., make unusual purchases, found in restricted areas)
- Is there an unexplained inventory shortage of a hazardous material (e.g., cases of canned air are missing)
- Have you found an unlocked storage area that is to be locked at all times?

In short, question anything that looks out of the ordinary when it comes to hazardous materials.

Responding to a Security Threat

If you believe there is a security threat, you must report it immediately. Alert your supervisor, the plant manager or the owner of the imaging lab to any suspicious behavior or other security issue. If you believe there is a continuing security threat that is not being addressed, you can call 911.

Summary

Despite the minimal risks of the chemicals used in imaging labs, it's important to be aware of security. Knowing the risks of the materials and conditions under which the materials are stored, recognizing a security risk, and responding to a security threat are the main elements of security awareness.

Test your understanding of this section by answering the self-quiz questions on the next page.



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Self Quiz Questions

1. A hazmat employee is one who:
 - a) loads or unloads or handles hazardous materials
 - b) prepares hazardous materials for transportation
 - c) is responsible for the safety of transporting hazardous materials
 - d) all of the above

2. Hazmat safety training must include the following elements:
 - a) how to protect yourself against the risks of hazardous materials
 - b) how to handle hazardous materials to avoid accidents
 - c) how to handle accidents involving hazardous materials
 - d) all of the above

3. All hazmat employees must receive hazard awareness training and prove competency:
 - a) true
 - b) false

4. Which of the following could be considered a possible security threat:
 - a) a locked and secure storage area
 - b) an inventory count that matches your inventory records
 - c) unusual behavior in an employee or customer
 - d) inclement weather

5. If you believe there is a security threat you should:
 - a) call the Department of Homeland Security
 - b) pull the fire alarm
 - c) immediately hide and wait until the facility closes
 - d) alert your immediate supervisor, and if necessary call 911

6. All hazmat employees must receive training:
 - a) when it is convenient
 - b) every three years
 - c) every 6 months
 - d) only required after a security threat