



Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Directorate

Oversight in the Pandemic Environment

Presentation to MACTDG

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Outline

- COVID-19 Pandemic – Impacts to oversight activities
- Task Hazard Analysis (THA) – Oversight activities during the Covid-19 Pandemic
- Remote Inspections
 - Stakeholder reactions
 - Technology
 - Experience to date
- Resumption of on-site inspections
- Conclusion

COVID-19 Pandemic impacts to oversight

- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Directorate was left with little choice but to take a hard look at our program to determine how we could meet our commitment of oversight of the TDG to safeguard public safety while balancing the risk to our people
- What did we do?
 - Developed a THA relating to COVID-19 and put into place control measures to mitigate risk
 - Determined what could be done remotely to minimize risk to employees
 - Established thresholds that would trigger the need to conduct on-site inspection
 - Developed a Remote Inspection Procedure; and
 - Developed trainings for both the THA and the Remote Inspection Procedure

Task Hazardous Analysis (THA) – Oversight activities during the Covid-19 Pandemic

- A committee comprised of inspectors and engineers developed a THA.
- The THA included:
 - Identifying risks of conducting oversight activities during the pandemic
 - Identifying control measures to mitigate or eliminate the risk
 - Identifying required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); and
 - Identifying training on proper hand washing, applying of hand sanitizer, wearing of masks and donning and doffing of gloves

Remote inspections

- The default position is to conduct oversight remotely unless the risk to public safety warrants an on-site physical inspection
- A Remote Inspection Procedure was developed to provide guidance to inspectors
- Inspectors were given the opportunity to test different technologies
- Covid-19 is impacting the delivery of TDG's oversight program.

Remote inspections / Stakeholder reactions

- Cooperation
 - Mostly cooperative
 - Some difficulty in contacting stakeholders during the pandemic
- Hardships
 - Not all favourable to oversight during pandemic as many are operating with limited staff
- Request for documentation
 - Can take long to obtain documentation

Remote inspections / Technology

- Facetime/Skype/MS Teams – Devices
 - Has generally worked well
 - Some issues with devices overheating
- Inspection Information System (IIS) – Records, Document and Information Management System (RDIMS)
 - Some delays in entering the inspections into the TDG database
- Email Limitations

Remote inspections / Experience to date

- Travel
 - Less time travelling means more time to conduct oversight
- Contact Person
 - For numerous sites, the contact person was also working remotely. Challenges obtaining required documentation
- Compliance
 - Difficult to fully assess compliance remotely as inspectors don't have complete picture of the site
- Duration – Complexity
 - Can be a drawn-out process

Resumption of on-site inspections

- TDG has conducted over 230 on-site inspections across the country
- On-site inspections involve a lot of pre-planning:
 - Can the inspection be done in a day without air travel?
 - Is the site able to accommodate an inspection?
 - Are there adequate hand washing facilities and can inspectors maintain physical distancing?
- No inspector is being directed to conduct an on-site inspection if they are not comfortable

Future of remote inspections

- Inspectors are becoming increasingly comfortable conducting remote inspections
- Remote inspections do not provide a full picture of the site. They will never fully replace an on-site inspection
- In future, remote inspections could be used for low risks sites. On-site inspections would be for higher risk areas
- Virtual meetings could be used to do some assessment prior to attending the site
- Site attendance could be reserved to ensure any non-compliances have been addressed

Questions?

