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## SPECIAL BULLETIN 2020 – 16

April 22, 2020

### PHMSA SAYS ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES ON SHIPPING PAPERS ARE OK

Several members have asked if drivers can accept electronic signatures on shipping papers of all kinds. On April 10, PHMSA issued a [notice](#) that it believes makes clear that electronic signatures, including those that are “electronically transmitted” by text or email, are legal and will be accepted by Agency enforcement personnel.

PHMSA staff, including Agency counsel, have consulted with several major trucking associations and the chemical industry in the preparation of the *Notice Highlighting Existing Options Related to Hazardous Materials Shipping Papers and Social Distancing during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency*. Further, PHMSA has stated that they will reach out to their own enforcement staff and representatives of state road enforcement groups (e.g. Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance) to make clear they support the use of electronic signatures across the supply chain.

Please let us know if you need further information on this matter.