

being investigated is notified and the investigative file is closed without prejudice to further investigation by the Associate Administrator.

(e) *Confidentiality*. Information received in an investigation under this section, including the identity of the person investigated and any other person who provides information during the investigation, shall remain confidential under the investigatory file exception, or other appropriate exception, to the public disclosure requirements of 5 U.S.C. 552.

[Amdt. 107-11, 48 FR 2651, Jan. 20, 1983, as amended by Amdt. 107-24, 56 FR 8621, Feb. 28, 1991; Amdt. 107-32, 59 FR 49131, Sept. 26, 1994; Amdt. 107-38, 61 FR 21099, May 9, 1996; 66 FR 45377, Aug. 28, 2001; 67 FR 61011, Sept. 27, 2002]

COMPLIANCE ORDERS AND CIVIL  
PENALTIES

**§ 107.307 General.**

(a) When the Associate Administrator and the Office of the Chief Counsel have reason to believe that a person is knowingly engaging or has knowingly engaged in conduct which is a violation of the Federal hazardous material transportation law or any provision of this subchapter or subchapter C of this chapter, or any exemption, or order issued thereunder, for which the Associate Administrator or the Office of the Chief Counsel exercise enforcement authority, they may—

(1) Issue a warning letter, as provided in § 107.309;

(2) Initiate proceedings to assess a civil penalty, as provided in either §§ 107.310 or 107.311;

(3) Issue an order directing compliance, regardless of whether a warning letter has been issued or a civil penalty assessed; and

(4) Seek any other remedy available under the Federal hazardous material transportation law.

(b) In the case of a proceeding initiated for failure to comply with an exemption, the allegation of a violation of a term or condition thereof is considered by the Associate Administrator and the Office of the Chief Counsel to constitute an allegation that the exemption holder or party to the exemption is failing, or has failed to comply with the underlying regulations from

which relief was granted by the exemption.

[Amdt. 107-11, 48 FR 2651, Jan. 20, 1983, as amended by Amdt. 107-32, 59 FR 49131, Sept. 26, 1994; Amdt. 107-36, 61 FR 7183, Feb. 26, 1996; 66 FR 45377, Aug. 28, 2001]

**§ 107.309 Warning letters.**

(a) The Associate Administrator may issue a warning letter to any person whom the Associate Administrator believes to have committed a probable violation of the Federal hazardous material transportation law or any provision of this subchapter, subchapter C of this chapter, or any exemption issued thereunder.

(b) A warning letter issued under this section includes:

(1) A statement of the facts upon which the Associate Administrator bases its determination that the person has committed a probable violation;

(2) A statement that the recurrence of the probable violations cited may subject the person to enforcement action; and

(3) An opportunity to respond to the warning letter by submitting pertinent information or explanations concerning the probable violations cited therein.

[Amdt. 107-11, 48 FR 2651, Jan. 20, 1983, as amended by Amdt. 107-15, 51 FR 34986, Oct. 1, 1986; Amdt. 107-24, 56 FR 8621, Feb. 28, 1991; Amdt. 107-32, 59 FR 49131, Sept. 26, 1994; Amdt. 107-36, 61 FR 7183, Feb. 26, 1996; 66 FR 45377, Aug. 28, 2001]

**§ 107.310 Ticketing.**

(a) For an alleged violation that does not have a direct or substantial impact on safety, the Associate Administrator may issue a ticket.

(b) The Associate Administrator issues a ticket by mailing it by certified or registered mail to the person alleged to have committed the violation. The ticket includes:

(1) A statement of the facts on which the Associate Administrator bases the conclusion that the person has committed the alleged violation;

(2) The maximum penalty provided for by statute, the proposed full penalty determined according to PHMSA's civil penalty guidelines and the statutory criteria for penalty assessment, and the ticket penalty amount; and

## § 107.311

(3) A statement that within 45 days of receipt of the ticket, the person must pay the penalty in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section, make an informal response under §107.317, or request a formal administrative hearing under §107.319.

(c) If the person makes an informal response or requests a formal administrative hearing, the Associate Administrator forwards the inspection report, ticket and response to the Office of the Chief Counsel for processing under §§107.307–107.339, except that the Office of the Chief Counsel will not issue a Notice of Probable Violation under §107.311. The Office of the Chief Counsel may impose a civil penalty that does not exceed the proposed full penalty set forth in the ticket.

(d) Payment of the ticket penalty amount must be made in accordance with the instructions on the ticket.

(e) If within 45 days of receiving the ticket the person does not pay the ticket amount, make an informal response, or request a formal administrative hearing, the person has waived the right to make an informal response or request a hearing, has admitted the violation and owes the ticket penalty amount to PHMSA.

[Amdt. 107–36, 61 FR 7183, Feb. 26, 1996, as amended at 66 FR 45377, Aug. 28, 2001]

### § 107.311 Notice of probable violation.

(a) The Office of Chief Counsel may serve a notice of probable violation on a person alleging the violation of one or more provisions of the Federal hazardous material transportation law or any provision of this subchapter or subchapter C of this chapter, or any exemption, or order issued thereunder.

(b) A notice of probable violation issued under this section includes the following information:

(1) A citation of the provisions of the Federal hazardous material transportation law, an order issued thereunder, this subchapter, subchapter C of this chapter, or the terms of any exemption issued thereunder which the Office of Chief Counsel believes the respondent is violating or has violated.

(2) A statement of the factual allegations upon which the demand for remedial action, a civil penalty, or both, is based.

## 49 CFR Ch. I (10–1–05 Edition)

(3) A statement of the respondent's right to present written or oral explanations, information, and arguments in answer to the allegations and in mitigation of the sanction sought in the notice of probable violation.

(4) A statement of the respondent's right to request a hearing and the procedures for requesting a hearing.

(5) In addition, in the case of a notice of probable violation proposing a compliance order, a statement of the proposed actions to be taken by the respondent to achieve compliance.

(6) In addition, in the case of a notice of probable violation proposing a civil penalty:

(i) A statement of the maximum civil penalty for which the respondent may be liable;

(ii) The amount of the preliminary civil penalty being sought by the Office of Chief Counsel, constitutes the maximum amount the Chief Counsel may seek throughout the proceeding; and

(iii) A description of the manner in which the respondent makes payment of any money due the United States as a result of the proceeding.

(c) The Office of Chief Counsel may amend a notice of probable violation at any time before issuance of a compliance order or an order assessing a civil penalty. If the Office of Chief Counsel alleges any new material facts or seeks new or additional remedial action or an increase in the amount of the proposed civil penalty, it issues a new notice of probable violation under this section.

[Amdt. 107–11, 48 FR 2651, Jan. 20, 1983, as amended at 50 FR 45730, Nov. 1, 1985; Amdt. 107–24, 56 FR 8624, Feb. 28, 1991; Amdt. 107–32, 59 FR 49131, Sept. 26, 1994; Amdt. 107–35, 60 FR 49108, Sept. 21, 1995; Amdt. 107–36, 61 FR 7184, Feb. 26, 1996]

### § 107.313 Reply.

(a) Within 30 days of receipt of a notice of probable violation, the respondent must either:

(1) Admit the violation under §107.315;

(2) Make an informal response under §107.317; or

(3) Request a hearing under §107.319.

(b) Failure of the respondent to file a reply as provided in this section constitutes a waiver of the respondent's