

## BATTERY TRANSPORTATION

### *Executive Summary*

*Battery Transportation*, a benchmarking study recently conducted by the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA), finds that retailers are aware of and complying with the U.S. Department of Transportation requirements for battery transportation.

On April 3, 2009, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) published a notice to “all battery recyclers, battery collection points and related associations.” The notice conveyed its recent findings and ongoing efforts regarding the storage and transportation of batteries. The PHMSA findings noted an “ongoing trend of serious safety problems and non-compliance regarding the classification, packaging, marking, labeling, documentation and transportation of spent batteries in commerce.” During recent investigations, PHMSA has documented a number of shipments that were not in compliance with the Hazardous Materials Regulations. The PHMSA memo does not focus on the sale of batteries, but rather the collection of the returned, spent or recyclable batteries. With the increase in retail recycling programs and internal reverse logistics operations, not to mention the batteries each retailer uses in the operation of their stores, this notice highlights a growing challenge for retailers.

This survey was intended to help members better understand how retailers are handling this notice, from compliance best practices to strategies for staying ahead of future regulations. RILA members were asked to respond to questions regarding 1) whether they handle batteries; 2) policies on handling batteries; 3) procedures for handling batteries such as separating, taping terminals, bagging and marking outer packages; and 4) training programs.

The full results of RILA member benchmarking studies are only available to participating companies. The findings are based on a survey of RILA’s Retail Sustainability Initiative (RSI) members in June 2009.

### *Contact Information*

For more information on this or other benchmarking or research studies, or if there is a subject you would like RILA to conduct a study on, please contact Sarah Walczewski, manager, sustainability & retail operations at [sarah.walczewski@rila.org](mailto:sarah.walczewski@rila.org) or call (703) 600-2042.