

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Alabama Department of Public Safety

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### **Background Checks Required Effective Jan. 31, 2005**

*For Commercial Drivers Seeking a Hazardous Materials Endorsement*

MONTGOMERY — Effective Jan. 31, 2005, new applicants for a hazardous materials endorsement on their state-issued commercial driver license must pass a background check now required by federal law, including requirements of the Patriot Act.

The federal Transportation Security Administration's Hazmat Threat Assessment Program involves a criminal history check, an immigration check, and an intelligence-related check on individuals who wish to apply for, renew or transfer a hazardous materials endorsement on their commercial driver license. The program does not apply to applicants for or holders of a CDL who do not wish to hold a hazardous materials endorsement.

In Alabama, applicants for a new HME may report to 3100 Lorna Road, Suite 104, in Birmingham, where they will complete an application and be fingerprinted. There is a \$94 processing fee. Drivers renewing or transferring an HME must report for processing by May 31, 2005. In addition to the Birmingham office, the Transportation Security Administration plans to open a Montgomery location at a later date.

The number for the Birmingham office is 205-823-9648. Information is available online at [www.hazprints.com](http://www.hazprints.com), and a toll-free help desk for drivers is available at 877-429-7746.

1/31/05



*for more information contact:*

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