



OHM Newsletter

Office of Hazardous Materials

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION / OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY / WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

VOL. III Number 25

August 1973

NOTICES AND AMENDMENTS PUBLISHED DURING JULY

HM-22; Amendment No. 171-19 (38 F.R. 19125 - 7/18/73).

This amendment updates the reference to the addenda to sections VIII (Division I) and IX of the "American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code" through December 31, 1972. The effective date is September 30, 1973, with immediate compliance authorized.

HM-97; Amendment Nos. 171-20, 173-73, 174-18, 177-26, 179-11 (38 F.R. 20083 - 7/27/73). Proposals C through J are covered in this Miscellaneous Amendment. The effective date is September 30, 1973, with immediate compliance authorized.

The closing date for filing comments in the following docket falls during August:

HM-108; Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making--
Safety Vents August 28, 1973

Notice of Special Permits issued or denied during July 1973
(38 F.R. 8/10/73).

USE OF POLYETHYLENE CONTAINERS

Shippers are reminded that § 173.24(c)(9) of the Hazardous Materials Regulations requires, as a standard requirement applicable to all shippers, that polyethylene used must be of a type compatible with the lading and must not be permeable to an extent that a hazardous condition could be caused during transportation and handling. Each shipper should take steps to assure himself that the materials he is placing in polyethylene containers meet these conditions.

CHARLES B. SMITH, CHIEF OF TECHNOLOGY,
OFFICE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, RETIRES

Charles B. Smith, Chief of the Technology Division, OHM, has retired from Government service.

Prior to joining the staff of OHM, Mr. Smith served in the U. S. Coast Guard, was commissioned an Ensign in 1943, and after leaving the service, was Chief of the Coast Guard's Dangerous Cargo Branch for many years. He retired as a Captain in the USCG Reserve in 1973.

Over 21 years of Mr. Smith's Federal service was devoted to the field of safety in transportation of hazardous materials by all modes of transportation at both national and international levels.

Mr. Smith's accomplishments, in both the Coast Guard and the Federal service, have brought him many honors and awards such as a Special Achievement Award from the USCG, Outstanding Performance ratings from both the USCG and OHM, and a Meritorious Achievement Award from the Secretary of the Treasury for work leading to the development of Dangerous Cargo Regulations in Safety of Life at Sea Conference in 1960.

AVAILABILITY OF OHM SPONSORED RESEARCH REPORT

A new report on a research contract sponsored by this Office is available (\$3.95 per paper copy or 95 cents for microfiche) from:

National Technical Information Service
U. S. Department of Commerce
Springfield, Virginia 22151

The following information must be furnished when ordering:

"Hazard Testing Organic Peroxides -
Gas Evolution"
Report No. TES-20-73-8
Contract No. DOT-AS-10055/1
Access No. AD-761606
By: Carl Boyars and Eleonore G. Kayser

CORROSIVE MATERIAL CLASSIFICATION --
SKIN TESTING CRITERIA

In our July Newsletter we attempted to correct some of the misunderstanding that occurred with regard to the skin corrosion test. In our continuing effort to further clarify this subject we had a meeting with a group of top scientific experts in the field. The purpose of this meeting was to find additional ways to help in developing information that would lead to application of the DOT corrosive definition in the most correct manner. Some suggestions were made to us which we believe would be helpful.

We cannot too strongly emphasize that the DOT Regulations in § 173.240(a)(1) are only concerned with the corrosive action of the material to the skin, and not primary irritation. The scoring system described in 21 CFR 191.11 applies only to primary irritation and not to corrosive action.

The regulations state that tissue destruction or irreversible alteration of skin are the criteria to use to determine corrosive action. Tissue destruction is considered to have occurred if, at any of the readings, there is ulceration or necrosis. Tissue destruction does not include sloughing of the epidermis, or erythema, edema, or fissuring.

We believe these supplemental clarifications can serve as a useful guide to the scientific testing personnel engaged in the examination of corrosives and perhaps prevent some confusion. Companies contracting for tests should be sure that laboratories they are using are aware of the differences between the DOT test and the Consumer Product Safety Commission test (formerly FDA test).

It is also important to note that explanations such as these must be kept within their context, i.e., if DOT states what visible destruction means, this is not binding on the Consumer Product Safety Commission. However, both agencies always confer on such matters to avoid variations as much as possible.

1974 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON TRANSPORT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

For the advance planning of interested persons, we have been asked by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission to include in our Newsletter an announcement of the Fourth International Symposium on the Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Materials which is planned for September 22 - 27, 1974 at the Fountainbleau Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida. This Symposium has traditionally attracted experts in the field of transportation of radioactive materials from many countries.

General questions involving the overall symposium or the technical program may be directed to either:

L. B. Shappert
Symposium Chairman
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Post Office Box X
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830
TELEPHONE: (615) 483-8611
Ext. 36951

W. A. Pryor
Program Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
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Ext. 34223

The published proceedings of the first three symposiums have proven to be extremely valuable reference resources to persons interested in packaging and transport of radioactive materials. The titles and availability of these documents is as follows:

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|------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| First Symposium | - Albuquerque, New Mexico | (1965) |
| | Report No. SC-RR-65-98 | |
| Second Symposium | - Gatlinburg, Tennessee | (1968) |
| | Report No. CONF-681001 | |
| Third Symposium | - Richland, Washington | (1971) |
| | Report is contained in | |
| | three Volumes: | |
| | Vol. 1: Report No. CONF-710801 | |
| | Vol. 2: Report No. CONF-710801 | |
| | Vol. 3: Report No. BNWL-SA-3906 | |

1974 International Symposium
on Transport of Radioactive Materials Cont.

These Reports are available at:

National Technical Information Service
Springfield, Virginia 22151



W. J. Burns
Director
Office of Hazardous Materials

The Secretary of Transportation has determined that publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of this Department. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget through November 30, 1976.

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