



# OHM Newsletter

Office of Hazardous Materials

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

VOL. II Number 10

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April 1972

5-100

## NOTICES AND AMENDMENTS PUBLISHED DURING MARCH

HM-97; Notice No. 72-1 (37 F.R. 4295 - 3/1/72). This is a miscellaneous notice covering Proposals A through J. Comment period will close May 31, 1972.

HM-98; Notice No. 72-2 (37 F.R. 5641 - 3/17/72). This notice covers the preparation of packages for shipment of radioactive materials. Comment period will close May 23, 1972.

HM-57; Amendment Nos. 171-14, 172-14, 173-61, 174-11, 175-7, 177-21. These amendments are to provide a quantitative definition for corrosive materials and to amend some sections applicable to liquids to make them applicable also to solids.

Notice of Special Permits issued or denied during March 1972. (37 F. R. 7170 - 4/11/72).

## ATTENDANCE OF TANK MOTOR VEHICLES.

Recent accident reports have indicated that cargo tanks were not attended during the entire unloading process. Section 177.834(i) of the Hazardous Materials Regulations specifies that:

"Under no circumstances shall a tank motor vehicle be left unattended during the loading or unloading process..."

Carriers and shippers should check their operating procedures and instructional materials to make sure all concerned personnel are aware of and comply with this requirement.

## SPECIAL PERMITS

The terms and conditions set forth in each special permit should be read thoroughly. The following words appear in each permit: "This permit does not relieve any shipper or carrier from compliance with any requirement of the DOT Regulations except as specifically provided for herein."

Lately, it has come to our attention that shippers of certain compressed gases have misconstrued the provisions of their special permits. They believed that their cylinders or spheres were not subject to the safety relief device requirements of 49 CFR 173.34(d) when, in fact, they are.

While certain sections of Part 173 may be waived, it is rare that the requirements of § 173.34(d) are waived. Unless specifically provided for in a permit, each cylinder or sphere charged with compressed gas must be equipped with one or more safety relief devices unless an exception is provided in § 173.34.

## LIQUEFIED ETHYLENE - INCIDENTS RELATING TO PROMISCUOUS TANK VENTING

The bulk transportation of liquefied ethylene in cargo tanks is presently permitted only under the terms of special permits. During the past few months, a number of venting incidents have been reported by shippers. Our investigation of the incidents has revealed that certain shippers and carriers are under the mistaken impression that the inadequate product retention capability of their tanks, for whatever cause, is condoned if manual venting is used to preclude pressure rises.

One of the basic requirements of each permit is a limitation on travel time relative to the holding time of the tank. Loss of product under normal conditions of transportation is not condoned. Shippers, carriers, and involved tank manufacturers should re-examine the design and maintenance of their tanks to insure that they have truly satisfied their respective areas of responsibility pertinent to tank integrity. Further, a review of each permit, particularly with respect to the requirements pertaining to, (1) rated holding time, (2) maximum allowable haulage distance, and (3) filling limitations should be made to assure that each tank involved is used in a service authorized by the permit. If a tank is being used to make deliveries beyond the holding time limits provided under the terms of the special permit, the carrier or both shipper and carrier are violating the Department's Hazardous Materials Regulations.

## MCA'S CHEMTREC EMERGENCY CENTER

In the September 1971 issue of the OHM Newsletter, a brief description of CHEMTREC, the Manufacturing Chemists Association's Chemical Transportation Emergency Center, was given. We feel it worthwhile to provide an updated description of the Center.

The Center assists carriers, emergency personnel, and others involved in emergencies with chemicals in transportation. This service is available around the clock by dialing:

800-424-9300 (Toll free)  
202-483-7617 in Alaska and Hawaii  
483-7616 in District of Columbia

With the caller remaining on the line, the CHEMTREC Communicator on duty draws on information previously determined as being applicable to the chemical reported to be involved, giving specific indication of the hazards and what to do, as well as what not to do, in case of fire, spills, or exposure as the immediate first steps in controlling the emergency.

Having so advised the caller, the Communicator proceeds immediately to notify the shipper by phone. The known particulars of the emergency thus relayed, responsibility for further guidance - including dispatching personnel to the scene or whatever seems warranted - passes to the shipper.

Since its beginning on September 5, 1971, CHEMTREC has received over 2,500 inbound calls. Many were to simply confirm CHEMTREC's existence.

Assistance has been provided in situations ranging from major train derailments to leaks in small packages. Tank cars and drums have been the containers involved in about two-thirds of the incidents reported. Two problems involving ships in storms in the Pacific Ocean have been successfully handled.

During CHEMTREC planning, it was anticipated that calls from emergency services (fire, police) would predominate. So far, however, carriers are far ahead in making use of the service. Hopefully, this will dispose of many problems before they need emergency attention.

According to MCA, reaction to CHEMTREC has been good, from carriers and emergency services alike, in the some 230 actual emergency cases handled to date. Prompt shipper follow-up has been an important factor in this achievement, and cooperation by MCA member companies, as well as many non-members, generally has been excellent.

## SEMINAR ON AIR TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The Department of Transportation's Office of Hazardous Materials and the Federal Aviation Administration will sponsor a one-day seminar on May 18, 1972. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Air Transport Association (ATA) will also participate.

This seminar is open to all interested persons, but it is designed primarily for air carriers, air freight forwarders and shippers of hazardous materials by air transport.

The seminar will be held at the:

Ramada Inn  
9636 Natural Bridge  
Berkeley, Missouri 63134  
Telephone: (314) 426-4700

The Ramada Inn is three minutes away from St. Louis' Lambert Airport.

This one-day seminar (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) will be presented on a "How to Use the Regulations" approach rather than discussing the details regarding the regulations of hazardous materials. In addition to the lecture periods, time will be provided for a question and answer period.

The following subjects will be covered:

Certification and Documentation  
Classification and Proper Shipping Names  
Hazardous Materials Incident Reporting  
IATA and Tariff 6-D (A.T.B. No. 37/C.A.B. No. 82)  
Marking and Labeling Requirements  
Other Regulated Materials  
Radioactive Materials  
Shipper vs Carrier Responsibilities  
Shipping Containers and Packaging  
  
Panel - Questions and Answers

## REGISTRATION

A fee of \$6.00 per person will be charged to cover the cost of luncheon and coffee breaks. There is no registration fee.

Please complete the following form and mail it with your check, payable to the Ramada Inn, to:

Mr. Richard L. Collie, Chief  
FAA Flight Standards District Office  
9275 Genaire Drive  
Berkeley, Missouri 63134

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### REGISTRATION FOR:

Seminar on  
"Air Transportation of Hazardous Materials"  
May 18, 1972  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ramada Inn  
9639 Natural Bridge  
Berkeley, Missouri 63134

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street)

\_\_\_\_\_ (city) \_\_\_\_\_ (state) \_\_\_\_\_ (zip code)

Position \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Major responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

MAIL PRIOR TO MAY 8, 1972  
Has check been enclosed?

AVAILABILITY OF OHM SPONSORED RESEARCH REPORTS

Reports on research contracts sponsored by this Office are available. They may be purchased from the:

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

at \$3.00 per copy. The following titles must be used when ordering:

"Hazards Classification Test Methods"  
Contract DOT - AS - 00007  
Access No. PB 193 077  
By: Bureau of Mines  
Department of the Interior

"A Study of Transportation of Hazardous Materials"  
Access No. AD 692 182  
By: National Research Council  
National Academy of Sciences

"A Survey of Environmental Conditions Incident to The Transportation of Materials"  
Contract DOT - OS - 00038  
Access No. PB 204 442  
By: General American Research Division

"A Survey of Test Methods Used for Simulating the Transportation Environment"  
Contract DOT - OS - 00038  
Access No. PB 202 728  
By: General American Research Division

As other reports become available, their availability will be announced in this Newsletter.



W. J. Burns  
Director

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