



OHM Newsletter

Office of Hazardous Materials

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

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NOTICES AND AMENDMENTS PUBLISHED DURING OCTOBER

HM-111; Notice No. 73-7 (38 F. R. 29483 - 10/25/73). This Notice of Proposed Rule Making regarding radioactive materials proposes to make various editorial changes and incorporate into the regulations various provisions now authorized under special permits including several new specification packagings. Comment period closes January 15, 1974.

HM-57; Amendment Nos. 171-14, 172-14, 172-20, 173-61, 173-74, 174-14, 175-7, 177-21, 178-26 (38 F. R. 28292 - 10/12/73). This amendment extends the effective date of the amendments under this Docket from December 31, 1973 to September 30, 1974 only as they pertain to liquid materials that are corrosive only to aluminum.

HM-86; Amendment Nos. 173-76, 177-28, 178-29 (38 F. R. 27595 - 10/5/73). The purpose of this amendment is to delete obsolete requirements, to update the regulations, and to make editorial changes pertaining to the specifications for the MC 331 cargo tank, and to the use and testing of portable and cargo tanks. The effective date is March 31, 1974, with immediate compliance authorized.

Notice of Special Permits issued or denied during October 1973 (38 F. R. 31031 - 11/9/73).

NOTICES AND AMENDMENTS PUBLISHED DURING NOVEMBER

HM-110; Notice No. 73-5 (38 F. R. 31017 - 11/9/73), Handling of Hazardous Materials on Motor Vehicles. This Notice extends the date for filing comments in Docket HM-110 from October 30, 1973 to January 15, 1974.

HM-22; Notice No. 73-8 (38 F. R. 32817 - 11/28/73). Matter Incorporated by Reference. Comment period closes January 29, 1974.

Notice of Special Permits issued or denied during November 1973 (38 F. R. 34007 - 12/10/73).

AVAILABILITY OF OHM SPONSORED RESEARCH REPORT

A new report on a research contract sponsored by this Office is available (\$ 3.00 per paper copy and \$ 1.45 for microfiche) from:

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

The following information must be furnished when ordering:

"Effect of Container Material on Several Organic Peroxides at 130°F."

Report No. TES-20-73-9
Contract No. DOT-AS-10055/2
Accession No. PB-224088/AS

By: Eleonore G. Kayser

SHIPPERS OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

A number of very important miscellaneous proposed rule changes pertaining to radioactive materials were published in the Federal Register on October 25, 1973 (Docket No. HM-111; Notice No. 73-7). Some of the more significant proposals included in this Notice are summarized as follows:

Packages containing liquid radioactive materials would be required to meet both of the criteria in § 173.393 (g), e.g., the 30-foot drop test and the provisions for double absorbency.

The current method of listing "families" of certain specification packagings as authorized Type A packagings would be deleted from §§ 173.394 (a) and 173.395 (a). In their place, reference would be made to the DOT Specification 7A, Type A general performance specification, with the added requirement, however, that users of Spec. 7A packages would be required to maintain a written documentation of their determination of packaging compliance.

Newly constructed DOT Specification 55 packagings would no longer be authorized for shipments of "limited Type B" quantities of special form radioactive materials.

Changes to the design requirements as well as authorized fissile radioactive material contents of DOT Specifications 6L and 6M packages are proposed.

Design modifications to DOT Specification 2R inner containment vessel (used in DOT Spec. 6L and 6M) are proposed, providing more definitive requirements for flanged closures.

Several new DOT Specification packagings are proposed to replace widely used DOT Special Permit packagings, i.e., DOT SP 4909 (UF in protection packagings); DOT SP 5800 ("wooden overcoats"); DOT SP 5725 ("Sugarman" overpack); DOT SP 5021

Shippers of Radioactive Materials Cont.

(fissile uranium loadings steel drums); and DOT SP 6273 (UF₆ "heels" in bare cylinders).

A new proposed requirement that shippers of "Special form" radioactive material maintain a written certification and safety analysis of their special form determination.

Clarified requirements for the method of "averaging" multiple wipe samples in the assessment of "Significant removable surface contamination," as well as proposal to provide for modified limits of significant removable contamination levels in full-load surface vehicles.

Provisions in the motor carrier and rail carrier regulations to provide segregation and stowage controls for multiples of package accumulations totaling 50 Transport indexes or less.

Guidance for shippers in completing the label entries on "Radioactive" package labels.

Provisions for shipments of Fissile Class II packages as Fissile Class III and provisions for co-mingling of Fissile Class II and III packages as a Fissile Class III shipment.

As discussed in the preamble to this Notice, these proposals are not essentially those which are anticipated at a future date to incorporate the provisions of the 1973 Revised Regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Such proposals will be the subject of a separate notice of proposed rule making concurrent with proposals by the USAEC to amend its Title 10 CFR Part 71. These notices are planned for early in 1974.

ATTENTION CARRIERS AND SHIPPERS

Carriers have recently submitted a number of hazardous materials incident reports which describe the packaging for flammable liquids and corrosive liquids as being polyethylene or glass containers, from one pint to one gallon capacity. These packagings were not further packed in DOT Specification fiberboard or wooden boxes as required by the Department's Hazardous Materials Regulations.

The partial exemption from the packing, marking, and labeling provisions generally applies only when the inside non-metal packaging has a capacity not over one pint. For example:

§ 173.118 (a) (2) "In containers having a capacity not over 1 pint or 16 ounces by weight each, packed in strong outside containers."

§ 173.244 (a) "Corrosive liquids, except..., in inside bottles having a capacity not over 1 pound or 16 ounces by volume each enclosed in a metal can in the outside container..."

While some of the regulations authorize an inside polyethylene or glass packaging of a greater capacity, such regulations usually require that the outer fiberboard packaging meet a DOT Specification.

Shippers should review their practices concerning the packaging of inside polyethylene or glass containers to insure that completed packages meet the requirements.

Carriers should review the requirements to determine whether such packages, when found leaking or damaged, meet the packaging requirements.

CHART 4--NEWLY AUTHORIZED
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS WARNING LABELS

It has been discovered that some of the charts which were mailed with the September issue of the Newsletter were out of line on the inside pages. This misalignment results in some of the orange lines being overprinted on the labels, and a misplacement of the labels.

If the chart you received is misaligned, please contact this Office and it will be replaced.

CARGO TANKS IN ALKALINE CORROSIVE LIQUID SERVICE

Several persons have inquired about bottom outlets on cargo tanks used to transport alkaline corrosive liquids subject to 49 CFR 173.249. Cargo tanks are authorized for use under § 173.249 (a)(1) and (a)(6). The question that has been asked is: May existing MC 310, MC 311, and MC 312 cargo tanks have bottom outlets meeting present § 178.383-5 or must they be modified to meet revised § 178.343-5 published under Docket No. HM-57?

Existing MC 310 and MC 311 cargo tanks meeting the requirements of the specification for liquids specified in the former sections covering bottom outlets are authorized in continued alkaline corrosive liquid service without modification. MC 312 cargo tanks constructed prior to December 31, 1973, may also continue to use the outlets authorized under present § 178.343-5. However, any MC 312 built subsequent to the effective date of Amendment No. 178-26 in Docket No. HM-57, must have bottom outlets for alkaline corrosive liquids that meet § 178.343-5, as amended.

USE OF "DOT APPROVED"

We have observed a number of advertisements in catalogs, brochures, etc., that contain the statement "DOT Approved" or similar language when in fact, the items mentioned have not been approved by the Department of Transportation. Use of the word approved implies that we have examined the item or observed the manner in which it was produced and have acknowledged that it meets the Department's regulations. This usually is not the case. If an approval is issued to someone, it would always be in writing, with a copy retained in the permanent file of the Hazardous Materials Regulations Board.

If there is a desire to indicate that an item has been produced in compliance with the regulations, we suggest use of the words, "Meets DOT Requirements" or "Meets DOT Specifications" if such statements are true.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SEMINARS

As a result of the interest shown, and the need for hazardous materials transportation seminars, the Office of Hazardous Materials and the Federal Aviation Administration are again planning a series of one-day seminars. These seminars are conducted to assist air and surface carriers, freight forwarders, shippers, container manufacturers, packaging, fire-fighting and law enforcement personnel, Federal, state, and local agencies, and other interested personnel in understanding the DOT Hazardous Materials Regulations.

The tentative locations of the next series of seminars are as follows:

Omaha, Nebraska
Denver, Colorado
Salt Lake City, Utah
Los Angeles, California
San Francisco, California
Portland, Oregon
Seattle, Washington
Points in Alaska

Specific details concerning these seminars will be announced in a later Newsletter.



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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