



OHM Newsletter

Office of Hazardous Materials Operations

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION / MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION BUREAU / WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

VOL. VIII Number 69

May 1978

NOTICES AND AMENDMENTS PUBLISHED DURING APRIL

HM-139; Amdt. Nos. 173-114, 179-22 (43 FR 17946 - 4/27/78) Correction. Conversion of Individual Exemptions to Regulations of General Applicability. This correction changed Note 24 to read "Note 25" each time it appeared in Item 8 of Docket HM-139 published March 2, 1978 (43 FR 8519).

HM-139; Amdt. Nos. 172-42, 173-116, 174-30, 177-40, 178-46 (43 FR 17942 - 4/27/78), Conversion of Individual Exemptions to Regulations of General Applicability. These amendments incorporate into the Department's Hazardous Materials Regulations a number of changes based on the data and analysis supplied in selected exemption applications, or from existing special permits and exemptions. Effective date: April 27, 1978.

PUBLIC MEETING ON UNITED NATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

A public meeting will be held on June 19, 1978, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 3201 of the Trans Point Building at 2100 Second Street, S.W., Washington, D. C.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the results of the March 1978 meeting of the Group of Rapporteurs of the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and certain other subjects which will provide information to assist in formulating positions for future UN Meetings.

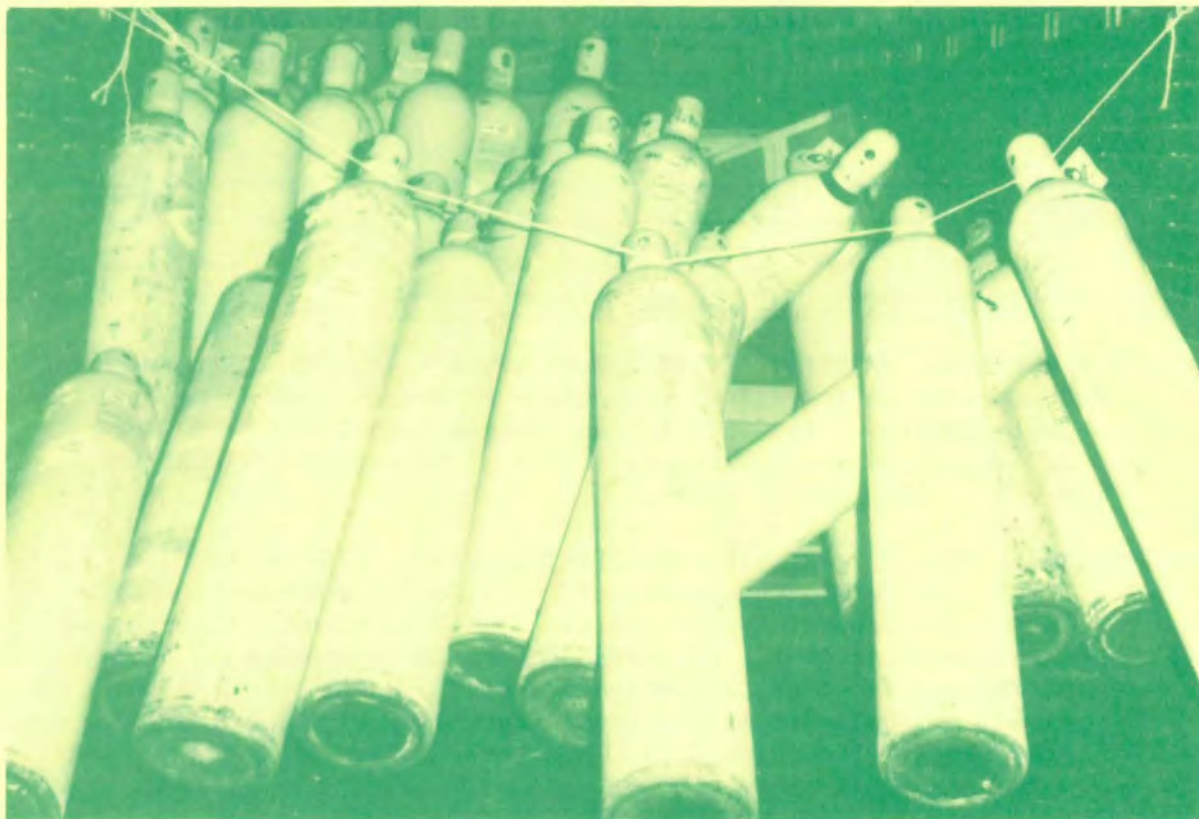
Notice of this meeting was published in the Federal Register (43 FR 20883) on May 15, 1978. Interested persons are invited to attend and participate in this meeting.

DOT/EPA PUBLIC HEARING ON HAZARDOUS WASTE

A joint (EPA/DOT) public hearing will be held on June 20, 1978 at the Holiday Inn, Old Town, 480 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia to discuss the development of regulations for hazardous wastes. Meeting will open at 9:00 a.m.

This hearing was announced by the Environmental Protection Agency in their Federal Register publication on Standards Applicable to Transporters of Hazardous Waste and Public Hearing, on April 28, 1978 (43 FR 18506).

BLOCKING AND BRACING REVISITED



The above photograph shows a less-than-truckload shipment of Fluorine, a non-flammable gas, as delivered by a major motor common carrier. The 40 cylinders are DOT Specification containers and were properly labeled OXIDIZER and POISON.

As can be seen, the carrier's method of blocking and bracing is grossly inadequate. The last row was contained by a piece of rope tied to both sides of the trailer and around the caps of four cylinders. When the rear door was opened by the driver at the consignee's dock, three cylinders fell onto the dock and one started to leak. The remainder of the load was found as pictured above.

This is but another example of improper loading, stowage, blocking and bracing of hazardous materials and a violation of § 177.834 (a).

SYNOPSIS OF SELECTED INCIDENT REPORTS

Date & Location
of Incident
(HMI Number)

Synopsis of Carrier's Report

2/23/78 Heidleburg, Mississippi (8030148)	<u>Crude Petroleum Oil.</u> Tractor-tank trailer was connected to storage tank. Driver failed to disconnect hose and drove off, pulling valve from storage tank, causing spill.
2/24/78 Grand Junction, Colorado (8030326)	<u>Corrosive Material.</u> A chartered single-engine aircraft was returning a drilling crew of four, with normal gear, from a drilling site--no hazardous materials mentioned. One member of the drilling crew placed some caustic soda in a discarded peanut butter jar, for later testing, and was holding it on the seat. During landing flareout at approximately 10 feet altitude, there was a "pop" and the cabin filled with gas and/or fumes which necessitated the pilot having to force the door open in order to get air and to see enough to complete landing and braking. The emergency was reported to the control tower, and the aircraft was evacuated as soon as it stopped rolling. The drilling team and the pilot suffered caustic soda burns which were neutralized by showering.
2/27/78 Detroit, Michigan (8030669)	<u>Limited quantity size containers of PAINT.</u> Two million dollars in property damage--no injuries. As a forklift turned a corner, cartons fell off and opened allowing a large slick of lacquer, paint, and thinner to form on the dock floor. Two dock men intentionally ignited the slick apparently in an effort to clean up the spill. Within minutes the flames engulfed the entire dock, reached a three-alarm magnitude, and totally destroyed the terminal offices and the dock.
2/22/78 Waverly, Tennessee (8030716)	<u>Propane.</u> A tank car of LPG was one of 23 cars which derailed on February 22. Two days later while rail crews were cleaning up the derailment wreckage the tank car exploded for reasons which are still being investigated. As a result of the explosion and subsequent fires, 13 persons were killed and 50 persons were injured. High property damage occurred and 2,000 persons were evacuated.
3/15/78 Frederick, Maryland (8030960)	<u>Chlorine.</u> A tank car rolled down a grade and into a plant striking and rupturing pipes. Chlorine escaped from the plant pipes. Fumes were inhaled by four plant employees who were taken to a hospital treated and released.

Synopsis of Selected Incident Reports Cont.

Date & Location
of Incident
(HMI Number)

Synopsis of Carrier's Report

3/15/78 North Platte, Nebraska (8040069)	<u>Placarding may be Hazardous.</u> In the process of installing a permanent hazardous materials placard, a hole was drilled from outside the trailer, through the trailer and through a plastic 55-gallon drum of corrosive material permitting 40 gallons to leak. The entire trailer was then unloaded, washed down, and reloaded.
2/27/78 Newark, New Jersey (8040486)	<u>Liquid Helium.</u> With insufficient clearance, the top of cargo tank hit an overhead railroad bridge. Vacuum insulation was lost and most of the helium cargo vented into the atmosphere.
3/29/78 Bellmawr, New Jersey (8040648)	<u>Chlorine.</u> While in transit, cylinders shifted and four fell from stake body trailer. One cylinder leaked. Two passersby received treatment for inhalation of fumes and were released.

FOREIGN CYLINDER APPROVALS

Two additional approvals have been granted to non-domestic manufacturing facilities to manufacture cylinders to DOT Specifications under §173.300b. (The first list was published in the OHM Newsletter, February 1978 issue.)

The companies are:

		<u>Specification(s)</u>
Totsuka Cylinder Corporation	Japan	3A, 3AA
SodaStream Limited	England	3E

Copies of applications for approval and related documents are available for public examination in the Dockets Section.

NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING COURSE AVAILABLE

A new self-standing training course is now available to teach emergency services personnel and others involved to prepare for, assess and effectively deal with hazardous materials (HM) transportation emergencies. This course, developed for MTB/OHMO under contract by the National Fire Protection Assoc. (NFPA), deals with all classes of HM's from small packages to bulk quantities, en route rail and highway transport and air, rail, highway and marine terminal operations.

New Emergency Services Training Course Available Cont.

The course offers about twenty hours of instruction and consists of 963 35mm slides, eleven cassette tapes, course coordinator's guide and student performance manual (workbook). The eight individual course units deal respectively with HM transportation problems and regulations, HM classes and properties, identifications of the commodities at the scene, obtaining technical assistance, situation assessment/command control (2 units), terminating and reporting HM incidents, and planning.

The course provides guidance to those persons who have the responsibility for handling hazardous materials (HM) transportation emergencies and to assist individuals with various emergency service responsibilities in better understanding their roles in the development and implementation of comprehensive, coordinated, viable community emergency action plans.

The training course package is available for purchase from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 470 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA 02210. The price will be \$315. through June 30, 1978 and \$350. thereafter. In addition, NFPA will conduct the following series of course seminars during 1978 (charge, exclusive of travel, meals and accommodations, is \$130. per person for non-members and \$120. for NFPA members):

Montgomery, Alabama	June 12 - 14
Seattle, Washington	June 19 - 21
Chicago, Illinois	Sept. 6 - 8
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Sept. 18 - 20
Springfield, Massachusetts	Oct. 4 - 6
San Francisco, California	Oct. 16 - 18
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	Oct. 23 - 25
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	Nov. 1 - 3
Houston, Texas	Nov. 8 - 10

Persons desiring more information on purchasing the course package or attending any of the seminars should contact: Mr. Austin Sennett (NFPA) Phone, (617) 482-8755, Ext. 228.

The Materials Transportation Bureau is exploring other ways to make the course available. Check future issues of the OHM Newsletter for further details.

EXAMPLES OF DOT PENALTY ACTIONS CONCERNING THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REGULATIONS

<u>Company</u>	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Penalty/ Initiating Agency</u>
Alamo Express (Drum Reconditioner)	Failure to properly test and mark reconditioned DOT containers.	\$ 750.00 (MTB)

Examples of DOT Penalty Actions Concerning
the Hazardous Materials Regulations Cont.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Penalty/ Initiating Agency</u>
Alii Air Hawaii (Air Taxi Operator)	Transporting electrolyte battery fluid without proper shipping papers or notification to the pilot in command.	\$ 350.00 (FAA)
Cameo Container Corporation (Container Manufacturer)	Manufacturing and marking a container as meeting a DOT Specification when it did not meet that specification.	1,000.00 (MTB)
Martin Aaron, Inc. (Drum Reconditioner)	Failure to properly test and mark re- conditioned DOT containers.	750.00 (MTB)
Perry Scott Products (Shipper by Air)	Offering a shipment of hazardous material which was not properly certified, described, marked, or labeled.	200.00 (FAA)
Salsbury Inter- national, Inc. (Shipper by Air)	Offering a shipment of hazardous mate- rials improperly marked, described, and certified.	2,000.00 (FAA)
Somycel U.S., Inc. (Shipper by Air)	Shipping Poison B liquid which was not properly packaged, marked, labeled, or described.	2,000.00 (FAA)
Trans World Airlines (Air Carrier)	Accepting and Transporting hazardous materials not properly marked or labeled.	3,000.00 (FAA)
United Airlines (Air Carrier)	Accepting a shipment of hazardous mate- rials not authorized aboard a passenger aircraft, and improperly described, certified, and labeled.	3,000.00 (FAA)

SOURCES OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME
DANGEROUS GOODS CODE (IMCO CODE)

IMCO has recently published the looseleaf edition of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMCO Code). The 1977 edition (four volumes) includes all previous amendments up to and including Amendment 13 (1976), as well as Annex I dealing with packaging details. The revised IMCO Code is available from the following sources:

IMCO Publications Section
101-104 Piccadilly
London W1V 0AE, England
Price: Thirty pounds plus
three pounds postage.
(Remittance to be enclosed with order.)

Labelmaster
6001 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60660
Phone: (312) 973-5100

New York Nautical Instrument and
Service Corporation
140 West Broadway
New York, New York 10013
Phone: (212) 962-4522

Southwest Instrument Company
235 West 7th Street
San Pedro, California 90731
Phone: (213) 832-0358

For reasons of uniformity of application of the revised Code, IMCO has issued a circular indicating that the effective date of the Code will be September 1, 1978.

The Secretary of Transportation has determined the 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, 1981.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS DIRECTORATE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS
DIRECTORATE

