



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

JUL 15 1999

Ms. Susan C. Saltzman
President, Saltzman Consulting
Services, Inc.
1420 Locust Street, #23M
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Ref. No. 99-0151

Dear Ms. Saltzman:

This responds to your letter, dated June 5, 1999, concerning the packaging requirements for self-heating solids, organic, n.o.s. in the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) and the International Civil Aviation Organization's Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (ICAO Technical Instructions). Specifically, you ask if you may use 1H1 or 1H2 plastic drums as a single packaging with plastic bag inner receptacles.

The answer is yes. An authorized single packaging for a hazardous material may contain inner receptacles that are compatible with the lading as long as the inner receptacles would not adversely affect the level of performance of the packaging. The packaging would remain marked as a single packaging.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Allan
Acting Director
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



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99-0151

June 5, 1999

Mr. Edward Mazzullo, Director
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards
Department of Transportation (DHM-10)
400 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Mr. Mazzullo,

INTERPRETATION OF THE REGULATIONS

On June 3, 1999, I called the DOT HOTLINE to get confirmation of an interpretation I had used in the past, but did not have in writing. Mr. Geoff Fetner checked the files, and reported that there was nothing on the specific subject. He also indicated that he could only refer back to what the regulations say, and could not tell me if something was legally a defensible interpretation based on logic. Instead, he suggested I write to you. Before doing so, since this involved air regulations, I phoned Mr. Frits Wybenga. I am happy to note that he agreed with my interpretation, and by copy of this letter, I am reminding him to bring this up at ICAO when the packaging instructions are being rationalized.

Specifically, I am concerned with Self-Heating Solids, Organic, N.O.S., II, UN 3088. Per ICAO/IATA, P.I. 417 allows 1H1 or 1H2 plastic drums as single packagings, max. wt. 50 kg. However, if a shipper chooses for quality reasons or ease of handling to subdivide the 50 kg into plastic bags before loading the drum, the packaging instruction appears to be stating that this is a combination package, the plastic bag must be an IP5, and each is limited to 2.5 kg maximum quantity. Mr. Fetner is of the opinion that is what the regulations dictate.

This is not logical, and Frits agreed with me that the shipper could instead interpret this as a single package, with internal supplementary packaging of one or more plastic bags, limited only by the fact that they could not total more than 50 kg. We would very much appreciate a confirmation of the above, in writing, at the earliest possible date. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Susan C. Saltzman, President
Saltzman Consulting Services, Inc.
cc: Frits Wybenga