



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

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

APR - 4 2000

Mr. Alan Moore, LFD
Palmetto & Ellenton Funeral Homes
and Crematory
204 Seventh Street West
Palmetto, Florida 34221

Ref. No.: 99-0242

Dear Mr. Palmetto:

This responds to your letter concerning the shipment of human remains that contain small amounts of formaldehyde. Specifically, you ask if such human remains are subject to the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) when transported by aircraft.

You are correct that formaldehyde is a hazardous material. Under the HMR, formaldehyde solutions are classed as corrosive (Class 8) or flammable (Class 3) materials, depending on their concentration. However, the potential risk posed during transportation by the limited amounts of formaldehyde solution contained in human remains is so minimal that regulation is not warranted. Thus, human remains containing small amounts of formaldehyde are not subject to the requirements of the HMR.

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

Sincerely,

Edward T. Mazzullo
Director, Office of Hazardous
Materials Standards



990242

173.22

**PALMETTO & ELLENTON
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY
204 - 7th St. West
Palmetto, Florida 34221**

Engrum
\$ 173.22
99-0242

Edward T. Mazzullo, Director
DHM-10
400 7th St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Re: FAA letter dated August 24, 1999

Dear Mr. Mazzullo,

Please refer to the letter I am faxing to you signed by Mr. Charles L. Cloyd regarding bodies shipped by common carrier containing formaldehyde. On the airbill it asks for a statement regarding the nature of the contents of the cargo and whether or not it is hazardous. The airline employees always ask that we sign that it is not hazardous when OSHA spends an inordinate amount of time telling the funeral industry that formaldehyde is in fact hazardous. Please provide me with a definite position on this matter so I am clear when I mark the airbill as non-hazardous materials.

Thank You,


**Alan Moore, LFD
204-7th Street West,
Palmetto, Florida 34221
Phone 941-722-7704
Fax 941-729-7679**