



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Research and  
Special Programs  
Administration**

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

SEP - 6 2000

Mr. Barry L. Dance  
Oakite Products, Inc.  
13177 Huron River Drive  
Romulus, MI 48174

Ref. No. 00-0186

Dear Mr. Dance:

This is in response to your letter of June 14, 2000, concerning the proper shipping description and markings for hazardous material packages according to the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). Specifically you ask if the shipping description on the shipping paper must be identical to the marking on the package if optional text is allowed in the shipping description. You present the following example where the shipping paper description is "Corrosive Liquids, Toxic, N.O.S. (Chromic Acid, Sulphuric Acid) 8, UN2922, PG II" and the marking on the package is "Corrosive Liquids, Toxic, N.O.S. (Contains Chromic Acid, Sulphuric Acid, Phosphoric Acid) 8, UN2922, PG II."

There is no requirement that the technical name text be identical on the package marking and shipping paper. However, it is recommended that the hazardous material description on the shipping paper and package marking be identical to minimize potential confusion by transporters and enforcement personnel. The requirements in § 172.203(k) allow for optional text, such as the word "contains" or listing additional constituents beyond the required two which contribute to the hazard the material exhibits. Section 172.301(a) and (b) require the shipping name, with technical names according to § 172.203(k), and identification number be marked on a package.

I hope this satisfies your request.

Sincerely,

Delmer F. Billings  
Chief, Standards Development  
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



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172.201

# Chemetall Oakite

Tel. (734) 941-3800

Fax. (734) 941-2193

Internet Address: <http://www.oakite.com>

June 14, 2000

*Johnson*  
*\$ 172.201*  
*00-0186*

Mr. Del Billings  
US Department of Transportation  
Research and Special Projects Administration  
DHM-11  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Billings,

I am writing for clarification of the necessity for proper shipping name marking on packages to match exactly the proper shipping name as depicted on shipping papers, when both proper shipping names are accurate and correct.

It is our general practice to mark packages with the complete shipping description as shown on the accompanying shipping paper. For example, one of our products are described on shipping papers and marked as:

Corrosive Liquids, Toxic, N.O.S. (Chromic Acid, Surphuric Acid) 8, UN2922, PG II

I understand this to be in accordance with all applicable regulations for shipping papers and marking.

However, I wonder if I would be in compliance if:

A. The shipping paper read:

Corrosive Liquids, Toxic, N.O.S. (Chromic Acid, Surphuric Acid) 8, UN2922, II And

B. The package was marked:

Corrosive Liquids, Toxic, N.O.S. (Contains Chromic Acid, Surphuric Acid, Phosphoric Acid) 8, UN2922, II

My reading of 172.100 through 172.448 leads me to believe that since both are independently correct, even though the package marking carries more information than the shipping paper, the described use of the two variations of the shipping name is acceptable and in compliance.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Barry L. Dance  
Corporate Transportation Manager

x 491

