



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Research and  
Special Programs  
Administration**

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

JAN 19 2001

Mr. Everett Gauthier  
Manager Quality, Safety, and Training  
Nalco Chemical Company  
One Nalco Center  
Naperville, Illinois 60563

Ref. No. 01-0003

Dear Mr. Gauthier:

This responds to your letter, dated January 5, 2001, requesting clarification of the requirements in the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) for determining reportable quantities of hazardous substances. Specifically, you ask if you must consider the entire quantity of hazardous substance being transported in a multi-unit cargo tank motor vehicle (CTMV) to determine whether you have a reportable quantity.

The answer is no. Hazardous substances are regulated under the HMR when the quantity in one package equals or exceeds the reportable quantity listed in Appendix A to § 172.101 for that material (see the definition for "hazardous substance" in § 171.8 of the HMR). For purposes of the HMR, each compartment of a multi-unit CTMV is considered a separate bulk packaging. Thus, in the example you provide in your letter, for a material that meets or exceeds the reportable quantity listed in Appendix A to § 172.101 in an amount of 18,000 pounds or more, if the amount of material in each compartment of a multi-unit CTMV is under 18,000 pounds, the material is not regulated as a hazardous substance even if the aggregate amount of material in all compartments of the CTMV meets or exceeds 18,000 pounds.

Hazardous substances that do not meet the definition of another hazard class are regulated as Class 9 materials under the HMR. For domestic transportation, a Class 9 placard is not required. However, a bulk packaging containing a Class 9 material must be marked with the appropriate identification number displayed on a Class 9 placard, an orange panel, or a white square-on-point display configuration (see § 172.504(f)(9)). For the example you provide in your letter, if the amount of material in one or more compartments of the multi-unit CTMV meets or exceeds the reportable quantity for that material, then the CTMV must be marked with the appropriate identification number in accordance with subpart D of part 172 of the HMR. However, if the amount of material in each compartment of the CTMV is under the reportable quantity for that



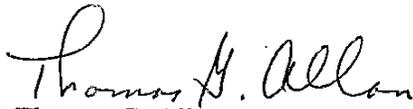
010003

172.514

material, then the material is not regulated as a hazardous substance and need not be marked with an identification number even if the aggregate amount of material on the CTMV meets or exceeds the reportable quantity.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas G. Allan".

Thomas G. Allan

Senior Transportation Regulations Specialist  
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



**NALCO CHEMICAL COMPANY**

ONE NALCO CENTER • NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS 60563-1198 • AREA 630-305-1000

Gorsky  
§ 172.514  
Placarding  
00-0370

1-05-01

Edward Mazzullo  
Director Office of Hazardous  
Material Standards  
US DOT -RSPA (DHM-10)  
400 7<sup>th</sup> ST South West  
Washington, DC 20596-0001

Dear Mr. Mazzullo

I have a question regarding the placarding of multi compartment trailers. The product we are moving is considered as hazardous in quantities of 18,000 pounds or more. The situation arises where the same product may be in multi compartments under the 18,000 pounds, however greater than 18,000 pounds in total for the trailer. Should we placard each compartment based on the pounds in compartment or do we placard based on the total pounds of product on the trailer.

I can be contacted at Nalco Chemical Company, One Nalco Center, Naperville, IL 60563-1198. The phone number (630) 305-1134 and the fax number is (630) 305-2930. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely

Everett Gauthier  
Manager Quality, Safety and Training