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

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

April 17, 2001

Ref. No. A1-0002

Mr. Mark Connolly
Mgr. Transportation Operations and Packaging
Akzo Nobel Chemicals Inc
300 South Riverside Plaza
Chicago, IL 60606-6697

Re: Recognition of Portable Tank Owners to Perform Periodic Tests and Inspections of Department of Transportation (DOT) Specification 51 / IMO Type 1 Portable Tanks

Dear Mr. Connolly:

This is to clarify that the U.S. Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) contained in Title 49 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR) set forth the standards for construction, testing and inspection of U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) specification portable tanks. As specified in 49 CFR 173.32b, the 2.5 year inspection of portable tanks may be performed by the portable tank manufacturer, owner, or third party approval agency. The U.S. DOT does not specifically require third party periodic testing and inspection of portable tanks at the time of the 2.5 year inspection. The initial and 5 year inspections must be performed by or under the oversight of an approved agency recognized by the U.S. DOT.

Portable tank owners or their agents must retain written records indicating the date and results of all required tests and the name and address of the tester, until the next retest has been satisfactorily completed and recorded.

In accordance with 6.7.2.19.9 of the 30th Amendment of the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code), the U.S. DOT, as the U.S. competent authority, recognizes the periodic inspection and testing (2.5 year inspection and test) of portable tanks performed by the portable tank manufacturer, owner, or third party.

Sincerely,

Frits Wybenga
Deputy Associate Administrator
for Hazardous Materials Safety

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