



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

OCT 3 2001

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

Ref. No. 01-0121

Mr. Trent Sisco
Tri-State Hospital
Supply Corporation
30409 Commerce Drive
San Antonio, FL 33576

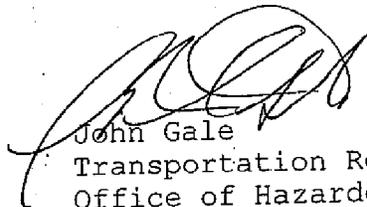
Dear Mr. Sisco:

This responds to your letter requesting clarification of the packaging exceptions for regulated medical waste (RMW) under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). Specifically, you inquire whether your non-bulk, non-specification fiberboard packaging conforms to 49 CFR 173.134(b)(3). You stated in a telephone conversation with a member of my staff that the RMW is transported by a private or contract carrier.

The answer is yes. As provided by § 173.134(b)(3), a regulated medical waste that is transported by a private or contract carrier is excepted from: (1) the "INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCE" label, if the outer packaging is marked with a "BIOHAZARD" marking conforming to 29 CFR 1910.1030, and (2) for other than a waste culture or stock of an infectious substance, the specific packaging requirements in § 173.197, if packaged in a rigid, non-bulk package conforming to §§ 173.24 and 173.24a, and 29 CFR 1910.1030.

I trust this satisfies your inquiry. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


John Gale
Transportation Regulations Specialist
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



010121

173 134



30409 Commerce Drive • San Antonio, FL 33576
(352) 588-3732 • (800) 775-8868 • Fax (352) 588-4899

Stevens

§ 173.197
§ 173.134

Regulated Medical Waste
01-0121

Mr. Edward Mazzullo
Director of the Office of Hazardous Materials
United States DOT/RSPA (DHM-10)
400 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20590-0001

5/11/01

Dear Edward,

I need your help. I am writing on behalf of Tri-State Hospital Supply Corporation specifically in regards to the corrugated Biohazard boxes that we supply in the State of Florida. I had contacted Washington D.C. in regards to the printing of our boxes. They had instructed me that as long as I am compliant with the Florida Administrative Codes for Biomedical Waste that we would be in compliance with the Department of Transportation.

After thoroughly reading the Florida Administrative Code for Biomedical Waste (Chapter 64E-16), it looks like we are totally compliant in regards to the printing of our boxes. For Outer Containers, the international biological hazard symbol is printed for all boxes at least six inches in diameter on outer containers 19" X 14" or larger, and at least one inch in diameter on outer containers less than 19" X 14". No where does it state that any kind of certification or regulation code or number be printed on the boxes. In Florida, some boxes have a 4G or UN certification # on them and some do not have any certification #'s on them at all. It varies from place to place. Usually the waste management transporter prints a certification # on their boxes. They might do this so they do not have to put a label on them every time out of pure convenience. However, this is not required on the printing of the boxes because it is not mentioned in the Florida Administrative Code. From everything our company has read, we are totally in compliance.

Then we talked to the State of Florida and the D.O.T. and they said that we were compliant and that we would be in compliance with the D.O.T. as well because of the compliance with the State Codes. What our company needs is a specific letter addressing that we are in compliance for the D.O.T. in regards to the printing of our corrugated containers for Biomedical Waste. And also if you could please specifically address that the following certifications, compliances and any certification numbers for that matter does not need to be printed on the boxes that we supply in the State of Florida. They might have to go on the side of the biohazard waste truck or a label that the generator or transporter puts on the boxes. However, no where can we find that any kind of certification number has to be printed on the boxes. If this is the case, then a lot of companies are not in compliance because about half the boxes just have the Biohazardous Waste Symbol printed on them. From reading the Florida Administrative Codes, it looks like labels satisfies any need to print anything other than the Bio-Hazardous Sign on the boxes. Could you please include in your letter that the following certification numbers or any numbers are not necessary to be printed on the boxes according to Florida Administrative Code and also is not required to be compliant with the D.O.T.? And if indeed labels are required to have any certification numbers on them, then please specify that the labels should get printed and directly printing any certification numbers on the boxes is not necessary.

Certification #'s

4G
UN3291
D.E.P. #7221

U 4G/Y15.8/S/99
N USA+BR1826

Complies with 49CFR
Section 173.197



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Again, some of these certifications are directly printed on only about half of the boxes down here. Some do not have any certification printed on the corrugated boxes at all and may be labeled later on. Please call me if you have any questions at 813-390-4074.

Sincere thanks for all of the help!

Respectfully Yours,

Trent Sisco
Tri-State Hospital Supply Corporation