



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

JAN 4 2002

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

Mr. Richard A. Winter
Director of Logistics
Haarmann & Reimer
180 Industrial Parkway
Branchburg, NJ 08876

Ref. No. 01-0256

Dear Mr. Winter:

This responds to your letter dated October 3, 2001, regarding the specification marking requirements under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). Specifically, you inquire whether inverted (upside down) UN standard markings permanently embossed on plastic drums would be a violation of § 178.3(a)(3). You state that your supplier has since corrected the error but you want to use the existing drums if they are considered conforming to the HMR.

The method of marking you describe in your letter is not recommended; however, if the inverted UN standard marking meets the requirements otherwise prescribed in § 178.3, this method would not be considered a violation of the HMR.

Sincerely,



John Gale

Transportation Regulatory Specialist
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



010256

178.3(a)(3)

Haarmann & Reimer

180 Industrial Parkway
Branchburg, NJ 08876

Stevens
§178.3 (3)

Marking of Packagings

01-0256

October 3, 2001

Mr. Edward T. Mazzullo, Director
Hazardous Material Standards, DHM-10
Research and Special Programs Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Dear Mr. Mazzullo,

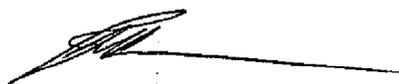
I received your name from Mr. Shane Kelley from your agency, who has been extremely helpful in assisting me with my issues. I received a shipment of plastic drums from my vendor and all of the pertinent UN embossing was done upside down. I am concerned that I might not be in compliance with 178.3(3) in the 49-CFR:

"The markings must be stamped, embossed, burned, printed or otherwise marked on the packaging to provide adequate accessibility, permanency, contrast and legibility so as to be readily apparent and understood".

Mr. Kelley stated that he checked with the enforcement personnel and assured me that we are in compliance, but could not guarantee that a field officer would not cite our company. He stated that I should get a written interpretation from you in the unlikely circumstance of that happening. We of course have contacted our supplier to correct the problem, but would like to use the existing drums.

I appreciate any help that you can provide in this manner.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Winter
Director of Logistics

Phone: 908-429-6934
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