

Mar 19, 2003

Mr. John W. Miggins
Product Safety/Transportation Specialist
Baker Hughes
12645 West Airport Boulevard
Sugar Land, Texas 77478-5050

Reference No. 03-0039

Dear Mr. Miggins:

This is in response to your letter requesting clarification of the packaging requirements in § 173.226(b) under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). Specifically, you ask if a 54 gallon DOT 4BW cylinder may be used as an inner packaging for a Division 6.1, Packing Group I, Hazard Zone A material. You state that the DOT 4BW cylinder meets or exceeds the performance standards of a 1A1 steel drum which is an authorized inner packaging.

The answer is no. Section 173.226(b) does not authorize a DOT 4BW cylinder as an inner packaging. The drums authorized as inner packagings in § 173.226(b), as well as the outer drums, must conform to the performance test requirements of subpart M of part 178 of the HMR at the Packing Group I performance level. A DOT 4BW cylinder is manufactured to a specific design specification instead of a performance standard. Therefore, use of a DOT 4BW cylinder as the inner packaging of a UN 1A1 drum for a Hazard Zone A material must be authorized under the terms of a DOT exemption.

I trust this satisfies your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Hattie L. Mitchell
Chief, Regulatory Review and Reinvention
Office of Hazardous Material Standards

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