



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

NOV 25 2005

Mr. Terry Iker
Manager, Technical Services
Ropak Packaging, West Division
14585 Industry Circle
La Mirada, CA 90638

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

Reference No. 05-0095

Dear Mr. Iker:

This is in response to your letter asking for clarification of periodic packaging testing under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). Specifically, you ask if non-bulk packagings selected at random by the manufacturer for periodic retesting must be less than one year old.

The periodic retest requirements prescribed in § 178.601(c)(2), (e), and (f) do not specify the age of the non-bulk packagings to be tested. They are designed to serve as a quality control measure to ensure that all non-bulk, hazardous materials packagings manufactured since the last successful design qualification test or periodic retest, as applicable, are capable of meeting the appropriate UN performance standards. This can only be successfully demonstrated if the packagings selected for testing are those manufactured since the last successful performance test for that design by that manufacturer. Therefore, after the design qualification tests required under § 178.601(c)(1) are successfully completed for each new or different packaging at the start of production, subsequent productions of the approved packaging design must be periodically retested as prescribed in § 178.601(c)(2), (e), and (f). As stated in § 178.601(e), a single or composite packaging must be periodically retested once every 12 months, and a combination packaging must be periodically retested once every 24 months. We believe this testing frequency and method are sufficient to ensure that all UN packagings are capable of passing the prescribed tests. Please note that a test report must be completed for each packaging design qualification test and each periodic retest as prescribed in § 178.601(l).

I hope this information is helpful.

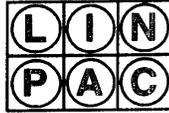
Sincerely,

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



050095

178.601(c)(e)+(f)



Ropak Packaging

West Division

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ISO 9002 Certified Quality System

Edmonson
§ 178.601(c)(e) + (f)
Testing
05-0095

March 10, 2005

U.S. DOT/PHMSA
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards
400 7th Street S-W
Washington DC, 20590

Attn: Mr. Edward Mazzullo

Ref: Letter of Interpretation – **Samples used for Periodic Retest of a single package, were older than one year old. Section 178.601 (c), (e) and (f).**

Dear Mr. Mazzullo

Is there a requirement for random samples submitted for Periodic Retesting of a single package, to be of a certain age? e.g. samples must have been manufactured in the preceding year leading up to the renewal of the Periodic Retest.

Section 178.601 (c), (e) and (f) does not appear to specify that random samples submitted for Periodic Retest must have been manufactured during the year of the most recent Periodic Retest interval. However, there is a requirement that the subject samples must be capable of passing the original design qualification tests.

Please provide an "official" interpretation for my records on this issue. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at (714) 522-6891, xt 314.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Iker".

Terry Iker
Manager, Technical Services
Ropak Packaging