



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REGULATIONS BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

11734

[Docket No. HM-78; Amdt. No. 173-48]

PART 173—SHIPPERS

**Hypochlorite Solutions in Specification
37M Steel Overpack With 2S or 2SL
Inner Container**

The purpose of this amendment to the Hazardous Materials Regulations of the Department of Transportation is to authorize the shipment of sodium hypochlorite, of not over 16 percent strength, in a specification 37M steel overpack with a specification 2S or 2SL inner container.

On February 18, 1971, the Hazardous Materials Regulations Board published a notice of proposed rule making, Docket No. HM-78; Notice 71-5 (36 F.R. 3130), proposing to amend the regulations as stated above.

Interested parties were invited to give their views on this proposal. All commenters objected to what was interpreted as a proposed reduction in the strength of the sodium hypochlorite solutions now authorized to be shipped in DOT 6D composite packaging. The Board interpreted the current limitation of 16 percent strength sodium hypochlorite solution as being equivalent to 7.6 percent available chlorine by weight, based on the theoretical assumption that all the chlorine in the sodium hypochlorite would eventually become available. On such a basis, increasing the percent available chlorine to 11 percent for all hypochlorite solutions would be relaxing the restrictions on strength of solutions.

Research into this matter revealed that the term "available chlorine" commonly refers to the oxidizing power of the OCl radical which is equivalent to the oxidizing power of Cl₂. Thus, by calculation, the Board finds that according to industry terminology it proposed reduction of the strength of hypochlorite solutions authorized to be shipped in the subject packaging. This was not the intent of the Board.

During this rule-making action it became apparent that interest no longer exists for shipment of the chlorine dioxide solutions. In view of this and the difficulty in expressing oxidizing power with the term "available chlorine", the Board has reverted to the expression "authorized for not over 16 percent sodium hypochlorite solution only", now

used in the regulations. The rule change does authorize use of the 37M/2S or 2SL composite packaging limited to not over 16 percent sodium hypochlorite solutions on the basis of satisfactory experience with the use of specification 37M steel overpacks for shipment of materials of equivalent hazard.

Accordingly, 49 CFR Part 173 is amended as follows:

In § 173.277, subparagraph (a)(4) is amended to read as follows:

§ 173.277 Hypochlorite solutions.

(a) * * *

(4) Specification 6D or 37M (nonreusable container) (§§ 178.102, 178.134 of this chapter). Cylindrical steel overpacks with inside specification 2S or 2SL (§§ 178.35, 178.35a of this chapter) polyethylene liners. Authorized for not over 16 percent sodium hypochlorite solution only.

This amendment is effective August 31, 1971; however, compliance with the regulations as amended herein is authorized immediately.

(Secs. 831-835 of Title 18, United States Code, sec. 9, Department of Transportation Act, 49 U.S.C. 1657, and title VI and sec. 902(h), Federal Aviation Act of 1958, 49 U.S.C. 1421-1430 and 1472(h))

Issued in Washington, D.C., on June 11, 1971.

W. F. REA, III,
*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard,
by direction of Commandant,
U.S. Coast Guard.*

CARL V. LYON,
*Acting Administrator,
Federal Railroad Administration.*

ROBERT A. KAYE,
*Director, Bureau of Motor Carrier
Safety, Federal Highway
Administration.*

SAM SCHNEIDER,
*Board Member, for the
Federal Aviation Administration.*

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