



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

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

OCT 16 1998

Mr. John N. Thompson
Hazardous Materials Specialist
BOC Gases
600 Union Landing Road
Riverton, NJ 08077

Ref. No. 98-0230

Dear Mr. Thompson:

This is in response to your letter dated August 5, 1998, requesting clarification on the proper description of your gas mixtures under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). Specifically, you are requesting clarification on the proper shipping name and identification number for a mixture of any one or more of the following gases: argon, helium, krypton, neon or xenon in oxygen. You ask whether the proper shipping name for your mixtures should be "rare gases and oxygen mixtures, compressed, UN 1980" or "compressed gas, oxidizing, nos, UN 3156" when the oxygen concentration is greater than 23.5%.

Section 172.101 requires that the closest name for the material compatible with the hazard class of the material be used. A mixture containing more than 23.5% oxygen is considered to be an oxidizing gas. Therefore, the proper shipping name, "compressed gas, oxidizing, nos, UN 3156" is more appropriate.

I hope this satisfies your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Delmer F. Billings

Chief, Standards Development
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards

August 5, 1998

Delmer Billings
U.S Department of Transportation
Research & Special Programs Administration
Office of Hazardous Materials Safety
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear: Mr. Billings

Could you please clarify for BOC Gases the following questions?

What would be the Proper shipping name and Identification number for a mixture of any one or more of the following gases; argon, helium, krypton, neon or xenon in oxygen?

Would it not be Rare gases and oxygen mixtures, compressed, UN 1980? What if the oxygen concentration was greater then 23.5%, would it then be described as Compressed gas, oxidizing, N.O.S., UN 3256?

In the Hazardous Materials Table you have Carbon dioxide and oxygen mixtures, compressed listed with Special Provision 77, which requires you to add a subsidiary oxidizer hazard label when the oxygen concentration is greater then 23.5% would not or could the same be applied to the Rare gases and oxygen mixtures, compressed entry?

We want to insure that we are properly labeling these cylinders in compliance with the regulations. Clarification of this matter would do this.

Thank you for any information you could provide on this matter.

Please respond to me at BOC Gases, 600 Union Landing Road, Riverton, New Jersey, 08077, phone: (609) 786-2906.

Sincerely,

BOC Gases

John N. Thompson

**John N. Thompson
Hazardous Materials Specialist**



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Washington, D.C. 20590

JUL 21 1993

Mr. Jeff R. Bowman
Project Supervisor
Environmental Dynamics
1916 Grandstand Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78238

Dear Mr. Bowman:

This is in response to your letter of April 14, 1993, regarding transportation of oil soaked rags.

As discussed with you by Mr. John Gale of our staff, the debris-soaked material referred to does not meet the definitions of a flammable solid or a spontaneously combustible material in § 173.124. For example, oil soaked rags are not characterized as readily combustible materials which may cause a fire through friction, nor are oil soaked rags likely to meet the definition of self heating materials exhibiting spontaneous ignition at temperatures exceeding 200°F during a 24 hour test period. Flash point, defined in § 173.120(c), is one criterion used to determine whether a liquid is classified as combustible or flammable material.

However, if the oil soaked rags are a hazardous waste under Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements, they would be subject to the appropriate requirements under the Hazardous Materials Regulations. For more information, call the EPA RCRA Hotline at 1-800-424-9346.

If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Delmer F. Billings
Acting Deputy Director, Office of
Hazardous Materials Standards

181/173.124

172.101
RAGS, OIL
SOAKED