



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Research and  
Special Programs  
Administration**  
NOV 20 2003

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

Ms. Rachel Gabel  
Warehouse Coordinator  
Unicep Packaging, Inc.  
1702 Industrial Drive  
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Ref No. 03-0272

Dear Ms. Gabel:

This is in response to your October 14, 2003 letter, requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) applicable to small quantities exceptions. Specifically, you ask if the procedures your company uses to transport small quantities of Class 8 hazardous materials by air are in compliance with the HMR.

According to your letter, your liquid Class 8 material is packaged in a sealed plastic 1 ml ampoule that is .02 inches thick. The unit is not liquid-full at 55 degrees. Five hundred plastic ampoule units are sealed in a plastic bag, and placed in a fiberboard box with the appropriate amount of absorbent material and cushioning. Your letter states that all required drop tests have been completed and the package is marked "This package conforms to 49 CFR 173.4."

A material may be transported under the small quantity exceptions if it is prepared in accordance with the quantity limits and packaging requirements in § 173.4, which includes the requirement that inner receptacles be made of plastic at least 0.008 inches thick, or glass, earthenware, or metal. Based on the information you submitted, it is our opinion that your Class 8 hazardous materials may be transported by air under the small quantity exceptions provided the quantity of the Class 8 material in the inner packaging is less than thirty (30) mL (1 ounce), all other provisions of § 173.4 are met, and there is no violation of § 173.21.

I hope this satisfies your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Susan Gorsky  
Senior Transportation Regulations Specialist  
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



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173.4



COPY

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October 14, 2003

Edward Mazzullo  
US Department of Transportation  
400 - 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, Dc 20590

Re: Shipping procedures for Class 8 Products

Dear Mr. Mazzullo:

I called this morning with a question about shipping a Class 8 product under the "small quantity exceptions" by air transportation. Our liquid Class 8 product is packaged in a sealed plastic 1 ml ampoule that is .02 inches thick. The unit is not liquid full at 55° C. Five hundred plastic ampoule units are sealed in a plastic bag and placed in a fiberboard box with the appropriate amount of absorbent material and cushioning. We have completed all 5 of the drop tests and labeled the shipper with "This Package Conforms to 49 CFR 173.4". I was told that this is acceptable.

Please confirm that we are correct in our procedures and our interpretation of the CFR. Under these interpretations, we are not required to place the bagged ampoules in a heavier container inside the fiberboard shipper.

Thank you for your written confirmation, at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Gabel".

Rachel Gabel  
Warehouse Coordinator

202 - 265 - 3384

/jrh