



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

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

NOV 29 2004

Ms. Pretlo V. Knight
Senior Consultant
Environmental Resource Center
101 Center Pointe Drive
Cary, North Carolina 27513

Ref. No. 04-0231

Dear Ms. Knight:

This responds to your September 7, 2004 letter requesting clarification on marking and shipping paper requirements under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). Specifically, you ask for an explanation of the marking and shipping paper requirements for a hazardous materials shipment containing two or more inner packagings of different but compatible hazardous materials packed together in the same outer package.

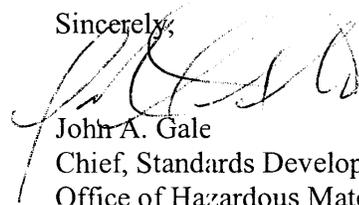
You describe the following scenario: a package contains the following inner packagings- a 1-gallon glass bottle of benzene, a 1-gallon glass bottle of acetone, a 1-gallon glass bottle of ethanol, and a 4-ounce plastic bottle of elemental mercury. It is your understanding that the outer package must bear the proper shipping names and identification numbers for each hazardous material in the inner packagings. It is also your understanding that the shipping paper must include a separate basic description for each hazardous material in the inner packagings.

Your understanding is correct. Section 173.24(e) authorizes the shipment of a mixed content of hazardous materials in the same outer package provided the hazardous materials are compatible and will not react dangerously with each other. The outer package must be marked with the proper shipping name and identification number and labeled in accordance with Subpart E of Part 172 for each hazardous material contained therein.

In addition, each hazardous material packaged in the outer package must also be properly described on the shipping paper in accordance with Subpart C of Part 172, including the number and type of packagings.

I hope this answers your inquiry.

Sincerely,



John A. Gale
Chief, Standards Development
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



040231

173.24(e)

September 7, 2004

Mr. Edward Mazzullo
Director for the Office of Hazardous Materials Standards
US DOT/RSPA (DH M10)
400 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Mr Mazzullo,

According to 49 CFR 172.404(b), when two or more packages containing compatible hazardous material are placed within the same outside container or overpack, the outside container or overpack must be labeled as required for each class of hazardous material contained therein. However, the Hazardous Material Regulations do not seem to address the issues of marking or shipping paper requirements for such packages.

What are the marking and shipping paper requirements for a hazardous materials shipment with packaging that contain the following inner packages?

- A 1-gallon glass bottle of benzene and a 1-gallon glass bottle of acetone
- A 1-gallon glass bottle of ethanol and a 4-ounce plastic bottle of elemental mercury

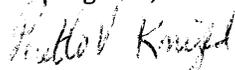
It is my understanding that the outer packaging must bear the proper shipping names and the identification numbers for each inner package. I also assume that the shipping paper must include a separate basic description for each inner package. Are these assumptions correct?

Additionally, are there any special statements required on the shipping paper when describing the type and quantity of such packaging as an overpack?

I believe that marking and shipping paper requirements for overpacked compatible hazmats should be clarified in the Hazardous Material Regulations, as we receive questions on the subject frequently.

I appreciate your time and help on this matter.

Best regards,


Ms. Pretlo V. Knight
Senior Consultant

*Marking
&
Shipping
Paper*

Boothe
§ 173.24(c)
Marking + Shipping Paper
04-0231

