



U.S. Department of Transportation
**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration**

1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

JUN 19 2009

Mr. John Menzigian
QA Manager
Triumvirate Environmental, Inc.
61 Inner Belt Road
Somerville, MA 02143

Ref. No.: 09-0130

Dear Mr. Menzigian:

This responds to your letter dated May 7, 2009, regarding the definition of “bulk packaging” for purposes of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). Specifically, you ask whether a UN 11G cubic yard box is considered a non-bulk or bulk packaging. Your questions are paraphrased and answered as follows:

- Q1. Is a UN 11G rated container for solids with a maximum liquid capacity of 119 gallons or greater and a maximum weight capacity of greater than 882 pounds considered a bulk container?
- A1. Yes. “Bulk packaging” means a packaging, other than a vessel or barge, including a transport vehicle or freight container, in which hazardous materials are loaded with no intermediate form of containment. For packagings used for solid materials, a bulk packaging is one with a maximum net mass greater than 400 kg (882 pounds) and a maximum capacity greater than 450 L (119 gallons). Thus, a UN 11G Intermediate Bulk Container (IBC) rated for solids with a maximum liquid capacity of 119 gallons or more and a maximum weight capacity of more than 882 pounds is considered a bulk packaging for purposes of the HMR. See §§ 171.8 and 178.708.
- Q2. If a UN 11G container for solids has a maximum liquid capacity of 119 gallons and maximum weight capacity of 750 pounds, is the packaging considered a bulk container?
- A2. No. See A1 above.
- Q3. If a UN 11G container intended for solids has a maximum net capacity greater than 450 L (119 gallons) and a maximum net mass greater than 400 kg (882 pounds), but is only filled to 300 pounds, is this considered a bulk shipment?

- A3. Yes. A UN 11G (oversized fiberboard box) intended as a receptacle for a solid is considered a bulk packaging if it has both a maximum net capacity greater than 450 L (119 gallons) and a maximum net mass greater than 400 kg (882 pounds), regardless of whether the package is filled with only 300 pounds of material.

I hope this information is helpful. If we can be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Betts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C".

Charles E. Betts
Chief, Standards Development
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards

Engram
§171.8
§178.708
Definition of Packaging
09-0130

May 7, 2009

Mr. Edward Mazzullo, Director
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards
USDOT/PHMSA (PHH-10)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE East Building, 2nd Floor
Washington D.C., 20590

Dear Mr. Mazzullo,

Please accept this letter as a request for formal interpretation from your office. Triumvirate Environmental, Inc. wishes to receive clarification regarding whether or not an 11G cubic yard box in transit is considered a bulk or non-bulk shipment.

Question 1: Is a 11G rated container for solids that has a maximum liquid capacity of 119 gallons or greater and a maximum weight capacity of greater than 882 pounds considered a bulk container?

Question 2: If an 11G container for solid has a maximum liquid capacity of 119 gallons and a maximum weight capacity of 750 pounds, is this a bulk container?

Question 3: If an 11G container for solids has a maximum capacity of 119 gallons or greater and a maximum weight capacity of 882 pounds, but is only filled to 300 pounds, is this considered a bulk shipment

Thank you in advance for your time and your input on these questions. Please contact me at (617)628-8098 if there are any needed clarifications to properly address these questions.

Regards,

John Menzigan
John Menzigan
QA Manager
Triumvirate Environmental, Inc.