



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

**OCT 03 2012**

Ms. Shari Ann Fry  
6107 East 186<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Bixby, OK 74008

Ref. No. 12-0184

Dear Ms. Fry:

This responds to your August 16, 2012 letter requesting clarification of the placarding requirements under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). In your incoming letter you note that state enforcement personnel are issuing violations to truck drivers for not placing the required placards on their trucks at least 3 inches away from other required placards. These enforcement personnel are citing § 172.516 as the reason for these violations noting that it is their opinion that placards are considered another marking under § 172.516. Specifically, you ask if placards are required to be placed at least 3 inches from other placards.

The answer is no. In accordance with § 172.516(c)(4) placards must be located away from any marking (such as advertising) that could substantially reduce its effectiveness, and in any case at least 3 inches (76.0 mm) away from such markings. A placard is not considered a marking in this case. The intention of § 172.516(c)(4) is to limit the potential dilution of hazard communications by other markings not required by the HMR. There is no specific requirement to have placards at least 3 inches from other placards.

I hope this answers your inquiry. If you need additional assistance, contact this office at (202) 366-8553.

Sincerely,

Robert Benedict  
Chief, Standards Development Branch  
Standards and Rulemaking Division

Boothe  
§ 172.516  
Placarding

**Drakeford, Carolyn (PHMSA)**

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**From:** Eckenrode, Andrew.CTR (PHMSA) on behalf of INFOCNTR (PHMSA) 12-0184  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2012 1:18 PM  
**To:** Drakeford, Carolyn (PHMSA)  
**Subject:** FW: Request for letter of interpretation

Carolyn,

We received the following request for a letter of interpretation.

Thanks

Andrew

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**From:** Rusty n Shari Ann [<mailto:rnsfry@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2012 12:41 PM  
**To:** INFOCNTR (PHMSA)  
**Subject:** Request for letter of interpretation

I am asking for a Formal Letter of interpretation..

Placard placement 172.516

Placards must be located at least 76.0 mm (3 in) from any other type of marking on the vehicle.

I am a truck driver that hauls hazard material on a regular bases.. We have been told that some Highway Patrols are stopping trucks and fining us if our placard are less than 3" from another placard...

They are saying that another placard are considered another type of marking..

Please clear this up for us drivers..

I am requesting a written response.

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