

February 10, 2006



U.S. Department
of Transportation

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

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration**

DOT-SP 13323
(FIFTH REVISION)

(FOR RENEWAL, SEE 49 CFR § 107.109)

1. GRANTEE: (See individual authorization letter)
2. PURPOSE AND LIMITATION:
 - a. This special permit authorizes the transportation in commerce of certain non-DOT specification cylinders containing samples of methane hydrate (frozen methane gas). This special permit provides no relief from the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) other than as specifically stated herein.
 - b. The safety analyses performed in development of this special permit only considered the hazards and risks associated with transportation in commerce. The safety analyses did not consider the hazards and risks associated with consumer use, use as a component of a transport vehicle or other device, or other uses not associated with transportation in commerce.
 - c. Unless otherwise stated herein, this special permit consists of the special permit authorization letter issued to the grantee together with this document.
3. REGULATORY SYSTEM AFFECTED: 49 CFR Parts 106, 107 and 171-180.
4. REGULATIONS FROM WHICH EXEMPTED: 49 CFR §§ 173.302a and 175.3 in that a non-DOT specification cylinder is not authorized, except as specified herein.

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5. BASIS: This special permit is based on the application of the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program/Texas A&M University dated February 6, 2004 submitted in accordance with § 107.105 and the public proceeding thereon.

6. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (49 CFR § 172.101):

Hazardous Materials Description			
Proper Shipping Name	Hazard Class/ Division	Identification Number	Packing Group
Methane, compressed	2.1	UN1971	N/A

7. SAFETY CONTROL MEASURES:

a. PACKAGING - Packaging prescribed is a T316 stainless steel cylinder and must be designed and manufactured in accordance with the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. The cylinder must be in accordance with Parr Instrument Co. drawing #4635/36 dated 9/30/96 on file with the Office of Hazardous Materials Special Permits and Approvals (OHMSPA), and must have a maximum working pressure of 3,000 psig at 150°C. As an alternative to the cylinder head shown on Parr drawing #4635/36, the head may be as shown on Geotek Ltd. Drawings dated 5/25/04 on file with the OHMSPA. The cylinder must be equipped with a 2,000 psig rupture disc.

b. OPERATIONAL CONTROLS -

(1) The cylinder contains approximately 30 c.c. of pure methane hydrate. In addition to methane hydrate, the cylinder is charged with not more than 500 psi of pure methane gas.

(2) The cylinder must be transported in a cooler of ice to maintain the sample's temperature below the sublimation point. The cylinders must be monitored during transportation to ensure they remain below the sublimation temperature.

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c. TESTING - At least once every 5 years, the cylinder must be visually reinspected (internally and externally) and hydrostatically retested at 1950 psig. The visual inspections must be performed in accordance with the 1993 edition of the Compressed Gas Association's pamphlet C-6.

8. SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

a. A person who is not a holder of this special permit who receives a package covered by this special permit may reoffer it for transportation provided no modification or change is made to the package or its contents and it is reoffered for transportation in conformance with this special permit and the HMR.

b. A current copy of this special permit must be maintained at each facility where the package is offered or reoffered for transportation.

c. Packagings permanently marked 'DOT-E 13323', prior to October 1, 2007 may continue to be used under this special permit for the remaining service life of the packaging or until the special permit is no longer valid. Packagings marked on or after October 1, 2007 must be marked 'DOT-SP 13323'.

d. Shipping papers displaying 'DOT-E 13323' may continue to be used until October 1, 2007, provided the special permit remains valid.

9. MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED: Motor vehicle and cargo aircraft only.

10. MODAL REQUIREMENTS: A current copy of this special permit must be carried aboard each aircraft or motor vehicle used to transport packages covered by this special permit. The shipper must furnish a current copy of this special permit to the air carrier before or at the time the shipment is tendered.

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11. COMPLIANCE: Failure by a person to comply with any of the following may result in suspension or revocation of this special permit and penalties prescribed by the Federal hazardous materials transportation law, 49 U.S.C. 5101 et seq:

- o All terms and conditions prescribed in this special permit and the Hazardous Materials Regulations, 49 CFR Parts 171-180.
- o Persons operating under the terms of this special permit must comply with the security plan requirement in Subpart I of Part 172 of the HMR, when applicable.
- o Registration required by § 107.601 et seq., when applicable.

Each "Hazmat employee", as defined in § 171.8, who performs a function subject to this special permit must receive training on the requirements and conditions of this special permit in addition to the training required by §§ 172.700 through 172.704.

No person may use or apply this special permit, including display of its number, when this special permit has expired or is otherwise no longer in effect.

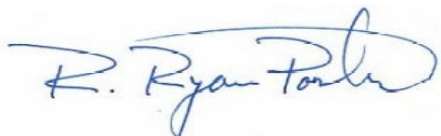
Under Title VII of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)- 'The Hazardous Materials Safety and Security Reauthorization Act of 2005' (Pub. L. 109-59), 119 Stat. 1144 (August 10, 2005), amended the Federal hazardous materials transportation law by changing the term 'exemption' to 'special permit' and authorizes a special permit to be granted up to two years for new special permits and up to four years for renewals.

12. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Shipments or operations conducted under this special permit are subject to the Hazardous Materials Incident Reporting requirements specified in 49 CFR §§ 171.15 - Immediate notice of certain hazardous materials incidents, and 171.16 - Detailed hazardous

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materials incident reports. In addition, the grantee(s) of this special permit must notify the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, in writing, of any incident involving a package, shipment or operation conducted under terms of this special permit.

Issued in Washington, D.C.:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Ryan Porter", is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

for Robert A. McGuire
Associate Administrator
for Hazardous Materials Safety

Address all inquiries to: Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590. Attention: PHH-31.

Copies of this special permit may be obtained by accessing the Hazardous Materials Safety Homepage at http://hazmat.dot.gov/sp_app/special_permits/spec_perm_index.htm Photo reproductions and legible reductions of this special permit are permitted. Any alteration of this special permit is prohibited.

PO: CWFreeman/sln