

May 14, 2021



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

East Building, PHH-30  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety Administration**

DOT-SP 20706  
(THIRD REVISION)

**EXPIRATION DATE: 2024-11-30**

(FOR RENEWAL, SEE 49 CFR 107.109)

1. GRANTEE: Southern States, LLC  
Hampton, GA
2. PURPOSE AND LIMITATION:
  - a. This special permit authorizes the transportation in commerce of sulfur hexafluoride gas in a non-DOT specification pressure vessel, which is a component of an electric utility circuit interrupter unit. This special permit provides no relief from the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) or the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code other than as specifically stated herein. The most recent revision supersedes all previous revisions.
  - b. The safety analyses performed in the development of this special permit only considered the hazards and risks associated with the transportation in commerce.
  - c. No party status will be granted to this special permit.
  - d. This special permit serves as an "Approval" under Chapter 4.1, Section 4.1.3.7 and Chapter 7.9, Section 7.9.2 of the IMDG Code, and as a "Competent Authority Approval" as defined in 49 CFR 107.1.
3. REGULATORY SYSTEM AFFECTED: 49 CFR Parts 106, 107 and 171-180 and the IMDG Code.
4. REGULATIONS FROM WHICH EXEMPTED: 49 CFR § 172.301(c) in that the package must be marked with the special permit marking and § 173.304(a) in that a non-DOT specification packaging is not authorized, except as provided herein.

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5. BASIS: This special permit is based on the application of Southern States, LLC dated December 9, 2020, 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
Sulfur hexafluoride	2.2	UN1080	N/A

7. SAFETY CONTROL MEASURES:

a. PACKAGING: Packagings prescribed are non-DOT specification pressure vessels as described in the application on file with the Office of Hazardous Materials Special Approvals and Permits Division (OHMSAPD). The maximum charge pressure may not exceed 65 psig. Each pressure vessel must have a design burst pressure of at least 6 times the charge pressure at 70 °F. Each pressure vessel must be fitted with a pressure relief device that is set to relieve at 150 psig. Each pressure vessel must contain no more than 0.65 pounds of sulfur hexafluoride. Each pressure vessel must be a non-DOT specification pressure vessel made of compositing (spiral wound fiberglass tubes covered with silicone rubber) housing with aluminum pans at each end attached to an aluminum casting and conforming to Southern States drawings 10125954 and 01981186.

b. OPERATIONAL CONTROLS: The pressure vessel must be transported in a rigid wooden shipping container as described in the application on file with OHMSAPD.

c. TESTING:

(1) Prior to filling with sulfur hexafluoride, each pressure vessel must be hydrostatically pressure tested to a minimum of 200 psig for five minutes and visually inspected to ensure manufacturing quality and interrupter housing integrity.

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(2) After full assembly, each unit must be leak tested by pressurizing it with Sulfur Hexafluoride to operating pressure, bagging overnight for a minimum of 6 hours and testing for leaks. No pressure vessel with evidence of leakage may be shipped.

(3) Periodic re-testing of the pressure vessels is not required.

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 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.

9. MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED: Motor vehicle, rail freight, cargo vessel, cargo-only aircraft.

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

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.

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- 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 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.:



for William Schoonover  
Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety

Address all inquiries to: Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, East Building PHH-30, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast, Washington, D.C. 20590.

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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](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: AS/TG