



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

December 19, 2024

Tom Bartfai  
Hazardous Materials Specialist, Motor Carrier & Rail Enforcement  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Reference No. 24-0067

Dear Mr. Bartfai:

This letter is in response to your July 17, 2024, email, and subsequent email conversations with a member of staff requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) applicable to the preparation of shipping papers. Specifically, you have follow-up questions seeking further clarification of a previously issued letter of interpretation (Reference No. 24-0020) regarding shipping paper requirements. Additionally, you provided four photographs of shipping papers as examples.

We have paraphrased and answered your questions as follows:

- Q1. In PHMSA's letter of interpretation (Reference No. 24-0020)—specifically the response in answer A1—and in accordance with § 172.201(a)(1)(ii), PHMSA stated that it was permissible to highlight additional information along with the basic shipping description if the highlighted information is associated with, and consistent with, the hazardous materials being shipped. You seek clarification on what PHMSA meant by “consistent with.” Specifically, you ask whether PHMSA was referring to required additional hazardous material description information provided in § 172.203, or if it was meant to generally refer to additional information included in association with the basic description, such as batch or lot numbers, internal product codes, or reference numbers, along with the basic shipping description to meet the requirements found in § 172.201(a)(1)(ii).
- A1. When describing hazardous materials and materials not subject to the HMR that are included on a shipping paper, a person is only required to choose one method listed in § 172.201(a)(1)(i) through (a)(1)(iii), as the word “or” (emphasis added) is used to indicate three separate options to identify hazardous materials on a shipping paper. If a person chooses to use more than one option, there is no prohibition in doing so. As noted in Reference No. 24-0020—and in accordance with § 172.201(a)(4)—a shipping paper

may contain additional information concerning the material, provided the information is not inconsistent with the required description. Moreover, unless otherwise permitted or required, additional information must be placed after the basic description required by § 172.202(a). For clarification, the requirements found in § 172.202(a) state the shipping description of a hazardous material on a shipping paper must include what is prescribed in § 172.202(a)(1) through (a)(4); however, there is no prohibition when information such as batch or lot numbers, internal product codes, or reference numbers is also entered or highlighted on a shipping paper, provided this information is entered after the basic shipping description of the hazardous material. Such information would be considered consistent with the hazardous material being shipped if the information is relevant to the hazardous material described on a shipping paper. Please note the purpose of the requirements found in § 172.201 is to allow for easy identification of hazardous material information by emergency responders and enforcement personnel. Moreover, additional information and the use of multiple techniques for identifying information should not interfere with the ability to differentiate between required hazardous material information and information that is not required.

- Q2. Letter of interpretation Reference No. 24-0020 pertains to a shipping paper that includes information for both hazardous materials and materials not subject to the HMR. You ask whether our response to answer A1—as it relates to Reference No. 24-0020—would change if a person used more than one option listed in § 172.201(a)(1) when a shipping paper contained only hazardous material information. Specifically, you seek confirmation whether it is permissible in this scenario to highlight information beyond the basic shipping description, such as batch or lot numbers, internal product codes, or reference numbers, along with the basic shipping description.
- A2. Please see answer A1. Please note, the options presented in § 172.201(a)(1)(ii) specifically apply to when a shipping paper contains information for both hazardous material and materials not subject to the HMR. The HMR do not provide instruction when using any of the same options for a shipping paper containing only information associated with hazardous materials. Therefore, our response provided to answer A1 in Reference No. 24-0020 would not change with respect to highlighting additional information because highlighting information beyond the basic shipping description would still be permissible.

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Dirk Der Kinderen  
Chief, Standards Development Branch  
Standards and Rulemaking Division

**Jones, Jessie Jane CTR (PHMSA)**

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**From:** INFOCNTR (PHMSA)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 22, 2024 1:54 PM  
**To:** Dodd, Alice (PHMSA)  
**Cc:** Hazmat Interps  
**Subject:** FW: Interpretation follow-up  
**Attachments:** OH3211303074-3.JPG; 24-0020.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello Alice,

Please see the below interpretation request. Let us know if you need anything.

Sincerely,  
Janaye

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**From:** thomas.bartfai@puco.ohio.gov <thomas.bartfai@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2024 12:55 PM  
**To:** INFOCNTR (PHMSA) <INFOCNTR.INFOCNTR@dot.gov>  
**Subject:** Interpretation follow-up

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern,

I have a couple of follow-up questions regarding the attached interpretation (24-0020).

In reference to 172.201(a)(1)(ii) you state that it is permissible to highlight more information than the basic description set forth in 172.202(a)(1), (2), (3), and (4) as long as it's consistent with the hazardous material being shipped. What is meant by "consistent with".....additional description requirements listed in 172.203 and/or would batch/lot numbers, internal product codes, or reference numbers be acceptable?

The first request was for when both hazardous and non-hazardous items are listed on the same bill of lading. Would anything change if multiple methods cited in 172.201(a)(1) were used even though not required when only hazardous materials are shipped; there's an "X" in the HM column and information is also highlighted? Is it permissible in this scenario to highlight information outside of the basic description..... additional description requirements listed in 172.203 and/or would batch/lot numbers, internal product codes, or reference numbers be acceptable?

In short, is ever acceptable to highlight information other than the basic description and any additional items listed in 172.203; would batch/lot numbers, internal product codes, or reference numbers be acceptable?

Thank you for additional time in this matter.



## Public Utilities Commission

Tom Bartfai  
Hazardous Materials Specialist  
Transportation Department  
Motor Carrier & Rail Enforcement  
FRA Certified  
216-407-0352  
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Seal#: 24242362

02/05/2024 20:33

Page: 1 of 10

Manifest#: 55278672

Trailer: SF2287 (1/1)

NBG

Consignee : R+L CARRIERS WILMINGTON., OH  
Address : 600 GILLAM RD  
WILMINGTON., OH 45177  
Phone : 800-543-5589  
Sch. Arrival : 02/06/2024 12:30 EST

Best Doors  
Building PM 1: 1-40, 426-475

WIL

Shipper : R+L CARRIERS MONTGOMERY, NY  
Address : 140 NEELYTOWN RD  
MONTGOMERY, NY 12549  
Phone : 800-464-1404  
Sch. Departure : 02/06/2024 01:00 EST

Load Seq	Orig	Dest	Pro Svc Date	*Pcs	Wt (Lbs.)	Shipper & Consignee	HM	Bulk	Pcs	Container Type	Wt (Lbs.)	Description
5	NBG	SWA	I245476332 02/14/24	9	361	(SHIPPER) GREENFIELD GLOBAL USA INC 58 VALE RD BROOKFIELD, CT 06804  (CONSIGNEE) AGC BIOLOGICS 16200 23RD DR W STE 101 EVERETT, WA 98203	X		9	PAIL	323 38	UN1170, ETHANOL, 3, PGII. HAZMAT EMERGENCY RESPONSE 800-424-9300 TARE WEIGHT P O # : 107871 UROUTE ID# : 2131268 1 SKD STC 9 PAILS OF HAZ
6	NBG	TTX	I245476341 02/09/24	29	890	(SHIPPER) GREENFIELD GLOBAL USA INC 58 VALE RD BROOKFIELD, CT 06804  (CONSIGNEE) ARTIVION 1300 E ANDERSON LN BL- DG A AUSTIN, TX 78752	X		29	CASE	852 38	UN1987, ALCOHOLS, N.O.S., 3, PGII. HAZMAT EMERGENCY RESPONSE 800-424-9300 CONTRACT# CCN17213 TARE WEIGHT P O # : 71789/1 REFERENCE# : 2131149 UROUTE ID# : 2131149 1PLT STC 29PC
7	NBG	SNA	I245476323 02/12/24	30	1040	(SHIPPER) GREENFIELD GLOBAL USA INC 58 VALE RD BROOKFIELD, CT 06804  (CONSIGNEE) THERMAL SCIENTIFIC INC 822 CANTWELL LN CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78-408	X X X X X		10 8 2 8 2	CASE PAIL CASE CASE CASE	323 300 79 238 62	UN1294, TOLUENE, 3, PGII. UN1230, METHANOL, 3, PGII. UN1265, PENTANES, 3, PGII. UN1090, ACETONE, 3, PGII. UN1307, XYLENES, 3, PGII. HAZMAT EMERGENCY RESPONSE 800-424-9300 CONTRACT# 17213 OFFERER NAME CHEMTREC TARE WEIGHT P O # : CC8501 UROUTE ID# : 2128255 LIFT GATE REQUIRED ***

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Seal# 24242362 Replaced By  
Poco # 1903267 of Bayfer # 3211





U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

May 1, 2024

Mr. Tom Bartfai  
Hazardous Materials Specialist, Motor Carrier & Rail Enforcement  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Reference No. 24-0020

Dear Mr. Bartfai:

This letter is in response to your March 20, 2024, email requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) applicable to shipping papers. In your email, you note that when a shipping paper contains both hazardous and non-hazardous materials, shippers must differentiate between the two using at least one of the methods indicated in § 172.201(a)(1).

We have paraphrased and answered your questions as follows:

- Q1. Your incoming email and photo present a shipping paper which utilizes all three of the options listed in § 172.201(a)(1) simultaneously—i.e., the hazardous materials entries are entered first, the hazardous materials entries are identified by the entry of an “X” placed before the basic shipping description in a column captioned “HM”, and the hazardous materials basic shipping descriptions are highlighted. You ask whether—as shown in the photo—it is permissible to highlight more than just the basic shipping description.
- A1. The answer is yes, provided the additional highlighted information on the shipping paper is associated with—and is consistent with—the hazardous materials being shipped.
- Q2. If the highlight option in § 172.201(a)(1)(ii) is the only method used to differentiate between hazardous materials and non-hazardous materials on a shipping paper, you ask whether it is acceptable to highlight more than the basic description as seen in the photo you provided.

A2. Please see answer A1.

I hope this information helpful. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Andrews".

Steven Andrews  
Acting Chief, Regulatory Review and Reinvention Branch  
Standards and Rulemaking Division