



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

5 November 2025

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

1200 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, SE
WASHINGTON, DC 20590
[202-366-4433](tel:202-366-4433)

Interpretation request

RE: Shipment of HM in a Bulk container containing non bulk containers and Proper packaging authorization.

Dear Sir,

We request a formal interpretation of the following issue we have a stakeholder generating and offering for transport and our understanding of the proper packaging as listed in the HMR.

We have a few questions and need clarification on a shipment that was offered to us for transportation. We have not transported it in this manner and want to ensure it is packaged properly per the HMR.

The containers the facility is trying to ship on the most recent shipment are UN rated carboys [4 Gallon Plastic Jug – 3 Pack
UN Rated | Food-Grade HDPE | 70mm Cap
Free Ship](#) 3H1 containers containing UN 1993, Flammable Liquids n.o.s. and contents are liquid, all in containers. There are 32-48 containers packaged into a 13H4 container. The facility utilizes the Clean Earth Systems Clean Pack container 13H4. [Clean-Pak Flap Top — Clean Earth Systems Inc.](#)

The facility for years has been and is still attempting to ship this as a Bulk container under packing 173.242.

We would like to understand if we are reading and interpreting correctly the packaging in the 172.101 Column 8C and Column 7 of the regulation. Can you please provide the USDOT's interpretation is of the regulations referenced.

The issues we have here are.

First: Per the USDOT table UN 1993, Flammable Liquids, n.o.s 3, PG II must be packaged under the following Packaging Provisions non bulk 173.202, bulk 173.242.

- When we read the bulk containers authorized from the CFR:
 - 173.242 (d) **IBCs**. IBCs are authorized subject to the conditions and limitations of this section provided the IBC type is authorized according to the IBC packaging code specified for the specific hazardous material in Column (7) of [the § 172.101 Table](#) of this subchapter and the IBC conforms to the requirements in [subpart O of part 178 of this subchapter](#) at the Packing Group performance level as specified in Column (5) of the [§ 172.101 Table](#) of this subchapter for the material being transported.



- (1) IBCs may not be used for the following hazardous materials:
 - (i) Packing Group I liquids; and
 - (ii) Packing Group I solids that may become liquid during transportation.
- (2) The following IBCs may not be used for Packing Group II and III **solids that may become liquid during transportation:**
 - The issue we see is that the above (1) (i) and (ii) cover liquids in (i) and solids that may become liquids in transportation(ii) specifically however (2) does not have this delineation.
 - (i) Wooden: 11C, 11D and 11F;
 - (ii) Fiberboard: 11G;
 - (iii) Flexible: 13H1, 13H2, 13H3, 13H4, 13H5, 13L1, 13L2, 13L3, 13L4, 13M1 and 13M2; and
 - (iv) Composite: 11HZ2 and 21HZ2.

Second. Under column 7 of the DOT table intermediate bulk containers for this specific HM carry a code of IB2 under Special Provision [eCFR :: 49 CFR 172.102 -- Special provisions.](#)

Table 1—IB Codes (IBC Codes)

Our contention is that since the items are being offered as a bulk container, the packaging under 173.242 reference the 13H4 which is being offered, however in the paragraph header of 173.242(d) it states “IBCs are authorized subject to the conditions and limitations of this section provided the IBC type is authorized according to the IBC packaging code specified for the specific hazardous material in Column (7)...” When we read the IB codes in Column 7 we find the Special Provision code IB2 is listed. Which states:

IBC code	Authorized IBCs
IB1	<i>Authorized IBCs:</i> Metal (31A, 31B and 31N).
	<i>Additional Requirement:</i> Only liquids with a vapor pressure less than or equal to 110 kPa at 50 °C (1.1 bar at 122 °F), or 130 kPa at 55 °C (1.3 bar at 131 °F) are authorized.
IB2	<i>Authorized IBCs:</i> Metal (31A, 31B and 31N); Rigid plastics (31H1 and 31H2); Composite (31HZ1).



IBC code	Authorized IBCs
	<i>Additional Requirement:</i> Only liquids with a vapor pressure less than or equal to 110 kPa at 50 °C (1.1 bar at 122 °F), or 130 kPa at 55 °C (1.3 bar at 131 °F) are authorized.

With that description in 172.102 (4) IB Table 1, code IB2 the ONLY authorized containers are: *Authorized IBCs:* Metal (31A, 31B and 31N); Rigid plastics (31H1 and 31H2); Composite (31HZ1). And since the offeror is attempting to ship as they have for years in a 13H4 which is not listed it is not authorized.

1. Our understating and interpretation of the HMR is
 - a. The offered IBC is NOT authorized for the HM offered
 - b. The HM offered would be the Non-Bulk Container
 - c. Each offered container would be individually marked and labeled per the HMR
2. The facility cannot ship in an intermediate bulk container any container that is not listed in column 7, 172.102 and listed in IB2 code.

Here is the shipping name offered by the offeror to us to transport:

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

UN1993, UN1993, WASTE FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS, N.O.S. (METHANOL, ETHANOL), 3, II, D001 F003, 0013207H, 3 YD3 CF, CF, 12-Aug-2025, 2200 P, WT/VOL

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We will wait for the interpretation to be returned prior to any transport of this material from this or any other offeror of the same type of HM.

Mr. Michael D. Carr, REM, CHMM, CDGP, RSO

President

Terrabella Environmental Services Inc.

210-892-4496 Office

830-569-8820 Fax

mcarr@terrabellaes.com , corporate@terrabellaes.com