



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**MAR 30 2018**

Melissa Owens  
HazMat/Accident Specialist  
FedEx  
1475 Boettler Road  
Uniontown, OH 44685

Reference No. 17-0126

Dear Ms. Owens:

This letter is in response to your November 15, 2017, letter requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) applicable to shipping papers. Specifically, you ask whether a shipping paper must list the quantity and type of packaging for each hazardous material that is placed inside of an overpack. You further ask if the sample shipping paper included with your letter meets the requirements of § 172.202(a)(7) and (c)(1).

The number and type of packages must be indicated on a shipping paper either before or after the required basic description as outlined in § 172.202(a)(7) and (c)(1). The type of packages must be indicated as a description of the package (i.e., "12 drums"). Placing packages containing hazardous materials in an overpack would not negate the need to identify the quantity of the hazardous material on a shipping paper. Therefore, the sample shipping paper included with your letter does not meet the HMR requirements.

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

Sincerely,

T. Glenn Foster  
Chief, Regulatory Review and Reinvention Branch  
Standards and Rulemaking Division

Andrews  
§172.202(a)(7)  
Shipping Papers  
17-0126

**Dodd, Alice (PHMSA)**

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**From:** Jones, Breanna CTR (PHMSA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** Hazmat Interps  
**Subject:** FW: Interpretation Letter Request  
**Attachments:** FCC PHMSA Interpretation Request.pdf

Hello,

Please see the attached interp request.

Regards,

-Breanna

**From:** Melissa Owens [<mailto:melissa.mcpherson@fedex.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 1:32 PM  
**To:** 'phmsa.hm-infocenter@dot.gov'  
**Subject:** FW: Interpretation Letter Request

Good Afternoon,

After speaking with Brianna at your location she requested that we note that we are unsure of whether or not the packing set up is an overpack or an UN-specification outer package. We are requesting some guidance as to when units should be added to the customer's bill of lading when multiple hazards and/or non-hazardous material are shipped inside the same package type (in this case, box).

Regards,  
Melissa

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**From:** Melissa Owens  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** 'phmsa.hm-infocenter@dot.gov'  
**Subject:** Interpretation Letter Request

Good Afternoon,

Attached is my request for a letter of interpretation. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Regards,  
Melissa Owens  
FedEx Custom Critical  
HazMat / Accident Specialist  
1475 Boettler Road  
Uniontown OH 44685  
234.310.4311  
[1446133@fedex.com](mailto:1446133@fedex.com)



November 15, 2017

Mr. Shane Kelley  
Acting Director, Standards and Rulemaking Division  
U.S. DOT/PHMSA (PHH-10)  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE East Building, 2nd Floor  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I am writing to request a Department of Transportation (DOT) formal letter of interpretation regarding shipping paperwork requirements.

Recently a customer submitted a shipper's bill of lading showing one non-hazardous and two hazardous chemicals in the same overpack. The quantity and type of packaging for each basic description is not listed and we do not believe the paperwork example shown below meets the requirements of 172.202(a)(7) and 172.202(c)(1).

Unit(s)	Pkg	HM	Description	NMFC	Class	Wgt (lb)
1	BOX		SOLUTIONS, BLOOD ANALYSIS, RELEASED VALUE NOT EXCEEDING 2.65\$ PER POUND.	060000-00	60	427.20
		X	UN1824,Sodium hydroxide solution,8,II,SOLUTIONS, BLOOD ANALYSIS, RELEASED VALUE NOT EXCEEDING 2.65\$ PER POUND.	060000-00	60	101.75
		X	UN1814,Potassium hydroxide, solution,8,III,SOLUTIONS, BLOOD ANALYSIS, RELEASED VALUE NOT EXCEEDING 2.65\$ PER POUND.	060000-00	60	226.55
26	BOX		SOLUTIONS, BLOOD ANALYSIS, RELEASED VALUE NOT EXCEEDING 2.65\$ PER POUND.	060000-00	60	564.52

The customer strongly believes that listing the quantity and type in association with the overpack meets the regulation requirements. As a result they denied our request to list the inner container quantity and type for each basic description. We would appreciate your guidance as to whether or not our interpretation is correct, so we are not unnecessarily declining shipments from this customer.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Owens  
HazMat / Accident Specialist  
234.310.4311  
1446133@fedex.com