



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

SEP 16 2019

Kevin Skerrett, DGSA  
Senior Regulatory Specialist  
Regulatory Operations  
UL Materials and Supply Chain  
23 British American Blvd.  
Latham, NY 12110

Reference No. 19-0090

Dear Mr. Skerrett:

This letter is in response to your July 3, 2019, email requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) applicable to hazardous materials descriptions and proper shipping names. Specifically, you ask whether the description for “UN1950, Aerosols, *corrosive, Packing Group II or III (each not exceeding 1L capacity)*” may be modified on a shipping paper to read either “UN1950, Aerosols, *corrosive, Packing Group II (each not exceeding 1L capacity)*”; or “UN1950, Aerosols, *corrosive, Packing Group III (each not exceeding 1L capacity)*.” You reference § 172.101(c)(2), which states in part, the word “or” in italics indicates that there is a choice of terms in the sequence that may alternatively be used as the proper shipping name or as part of the proper shipping name, as appropriate.

Your understanding is correct. In accordance with § 172.101(c)(2), you may choose either of those descriptions referenced above for the shipping paper, depending on which one correctly identifies the material based on the packing group of the corrosive hazard. In this instance, there is a choice of terms in the sequence that may be alternatively used as part of the proper shipping name, although not required.

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

Larson  
§ 173.101(c)(2)

19-0090

**Dodd, Alice (PHMSA)**

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**From:** INFOCNTR (PHMSA)  
**Sent:** Friday, July 05, 2019 2:44 PM  
**To:** Hazmat Interps  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Letter of Interpretation

Hi Alice and Ikeya,

Please see the request for a letter of interpretation below.

Sincerely,

Lynsie, HMIC

**From:** Skerrett, Kevin [mailto:Kevin.Skerrett@ul.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 3, 2019 4:35 PM  
**To:** INFOCNTR (PHMSA) <INFOCNTR.INFOCNTR@dot.gov>  
**Subject:** Question about optional text for UN1950 corrosive

Earlier today I called to confirm that when the optional (italicized) description for a PSN is used on a shipping paper, it must all be used, or none of it.

Interpretation 18-0052 was referred to, with its reference to {49CFR 172.101(l)(2)}.

The example I asked about was UN1950 Aerosols, *flammable, (each not exceeding 1 L capacity)*, where the part in italics had to all be used, not just "*flammable*".

I have a related question for UN1950 Aerosols, *corrosive, Packing Group II or III, (each not exceeding 1 L capacity)*.

QUESTION: Can the description be modified to only refer to the Corrosive Packing Group that actually applies, rather than the full text that refers to both?

The prohibition on alteration for the description is for any modifications beyond those that "may otherwise be required or authorized" elsewhere (per {173.101(c)})

In {173.101(c)(2)} I find:

"Punctuation marks and words in italics are not part of the proper shipping name, but may be used in addition to the proper shipping name. The word "or" in italics indicates that there is a choice of terms in the sequence that may alternately be used as the proper shipping name or as part of the proper shipping name, as appropriate. For example, for the hazardous materials description "Carbon dioxide, solid or Dry ice" either "Carbon dioxide, solid" or "Dry ice" may be used as the proper shipping name; and for the hazardous materials description "Articles, pressurized pneumatic or hydraulic," either "Articles, pressurized pneumatic" or "Articles, pressurized hydraulic" may be used as the proper shipping name."

But in both examples given above,

Carbon dioxide, solid *or* Dry ice

UN1845

Articles, pressurized pneumatic *or* hydraulic *containing non-flammable gas*

UN3164

The italicized "or" appears between two entries in Roman type.

In the PSN example I now ask about:

Aerosols, *corrosive, Packing Group II or III, (each not exceeding 1 L capacity)*.

UN1950

The "or" is in italics between text that is ALSO in italics. Similar examples are:

Ammonium picrate, *dry or wetted with less than 10 percent water, by mass*

UN0004

Asbestos, amphibole <i>amosite, tremolite, actinolite, anthophyllite, or crocidolite</i>	UN2212
Asphalt, <i>at or above its flash point</i>	NA1999
Carbon, <i>animal or vegetable origin</i>	UN1361
Cerium, <i>slabs, ingots, or rods</i>	UN1333

Does {173.101(c)(2)} extend to these examples, or only to PSN options that appear in Roman type?

Are the following acceptable:

*Aerosols, corrosive, Packing Group II, (each not exceeding 1 L capacity).*

*Aerosols, corrosive, Packing Group III, (each not exceeding 1 L capacity).*

Or only:

*Aerosols, corrosive, Packing Group II or III, (each not exceeding 1 L capacity).*

Thank you for your assistance with this issue!

Kevin Skerrett, DGSA  
Senior Regulatory Specialist  
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