



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION BUREAU
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

45695

[49 CFR Part 178]

[Docket No. HM-154]

CONSOLIDATION OF BOX
SPECIFICATIONS

Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making

AGENCY: Materials Transportation Bureau, DOT.

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rule making.

SUMMARY: This advance notice provides information and an opportunity for comment on the proposed consolidation of specifications for boxes to be used for the transportation of hazardous materials.

DATE: Comments must be received on or before November 17, 1977.

ADDRESS: Comments should be addressed to the Section of Dockets, Office of Hazardous Materials Operations, Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590. Five copies should be submitted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Alan I. Roberts, Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Operations, Department of Transportation, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20590 (202-426-0656).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Since 1972, there have been several attempts made to consolidate the specifications for boxes as provided for in Part 178 of the Hazardous Materials Regulations. For instance, the Chemical Packaging Committee of the Manufacturing Chemists Association (MCA) developed several alternatives for consolidating some but not all of the specifications for boxes in Part 178 of Title 49 CFR. As a result of this work, a petition for rule making was received which sought an amendment of Part 178 of the Department of Transportation's Hazardous Materials Regulations to consolidate the specifications for fiberboard boxes in the 12 series. Primary drafters of this document are Mario E. Gigliotti and Douglas A. Crockett.

The background information on this subject indicates that many benefits will accrue as a result of consolidating the box specifications. Among these benefits are: the number of box specifications can be reduced; the Regulations can be made more concise and uniform, and thus easier to use; the box specifications can be made simpler and less redundant, as well as more readily adapted to the incorporation of performance-oriented test procedures and requirements. Moreover, the background information also implies that the box consolidation may favorably affect packagers and shippers of hazardous materials, carriers and box manufacturers and, therefore, could enhance the safe transportation of hazardous materials.

To develop a Notice of Proposed Rule Making certain information is required and, therefore, the Bureau is providing this opportunity for comment on the consolidation of specifications for boxes for hazardous materials. Comments should be addressed to the following questions:

1. Is there a need to consolidate the specifications for boxes?

2. Should the consolidation, if made, embrace all box specifications: That is, fiberboard (series 12) Specifications 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D, 12E, 12H, 12P, and 12R; (series 23) Specifications 23F, 23G, and 23H; Wooden, Specification 24; (series 15) Specifications 15A, 15B, 15C, 15D, 15E, 15L, 15M 15X, and 15P; (series 16) Specifications 16A, 16B, and 16D; (series 19) Specifications 19A and 19B; Metal, Specifications 32A, 32B, 32C, and 32D; Expanded polystyrene, Specification 33A.

3. Should the consolidation be limited to specifications for fiberboard boxes, i.e., series 12 and series 23?

4. Should the series 12 boxes and series 23 boxes be treated separately?

5. Should corrugated fiberboard boxes and solid fiberboard boxes be treated separately?

6. Should the consolidation be narrowed to include only fiberboard boxes in series 12, as proposed by the MCA in their petition to consolidate specifications 12A, 12B, 12C, 12D, and 12E?

7. Should the consolidation be limited to specifications for wooden boxes, i.e., series 15, series 16, series 19, and Specification 14? Should series 15, 16, and 19 wooden boxes be treated separately?

8. Should the consolidation be limited to specifications for metal boxes, i.e., series 32?

9. Should the consolidation(s) break down the specifications into "families" of boxes? For instance—

- (a) Corrugated fiberboard boxes.
- (b) Solid fiberboard boxes.
- (c) Wooden boxes, nailed, e.g., Specifications 14, 16A, 15E, 15C, and 15D.
- (d) Wooden boxes, lined, e.g., Specifications 15E and 15L.
- (e) Wooden boxes, with or for inside containers, e.g., Specifications 15L, 15X, and 15P.
- (f) Wooden boxes, wirebound, e.g., Specification 16A, 16B, and 16D.
- (g) Wooden boxes, glued plywood, e.g., Specifications 19A and 19B.
- (h) Expanded polystyrene box, e.g., Specification 33A.

10. Based on negligible use for hazardous materials or lack of production, are certain specification boxes obsolete and thus appropriate for cancellation?

11. Should the consolidation(s) of box specifications be substantive in nature (i.e., include technical changes) or be solely editorial?

Comments addressing potential editorial or substantive amendment of the DOT box specifications should identify and substantiate any reasonably foreseen costs or benefits to industry, the public, or to Federal or State Governments. This information is necessary for an adequate evaluation of the comments and for examination of possible economic impacts prior to publication of any subsequent notice of proposed rulemaking.

(49 U.S.C. 1803, 1804, 1080; 49 CFR 1.53(e) and paragraph (a) (4) of Appendix A to Part 102.)

Issued in Washington, D.C. on September 6, 1977.

ALAN I. ROBERTS,
Director, Office of
Hazardous Materials Operations.
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