



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REGULATIONS BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

4267

Hazardous Materials Regulations
Board

[49 CFR Part 173]

[Docket No. HM-43; Notice 70-4].

TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS

Oil Well Cartridges

The Hazardous Materials Regulations Board is considering amending § 173.100 (v) of the Department's Hazardous Materials Regulations to authorize an increase in the propellant powder grain content of oil well cartridges.

This proposal is based on a petition for rule making submitted by the Bureau of Explosives to amend § 173.100(v). In its petition, the Bureau stated the proposed change would be consistent with the level of safety generally applicable to class C explosives and particularly would be consistent with § 173.100(b)(3) which authorizes up to 500 grains of propellant powder for blank cartridges, starter cartridges, etc., when packaged in a specified manner.

On March 17, 1969, tests were conducted by the Bureau of Explosives on sample oil well cartridges containing 350 grains of propellant powder. Tests revealed that a sample cartridge was stable when maintained at 75° C. for 48 hours. Two units were placed in a sawdust-kerosene fire and burned without explosion. On August 27, 1969, a series of tests were witnessed by a representative of the Bureau of Explosives. The first test demonstrated that the detonation of one cartridge in a package did not cause additional detonations of other cartridges in the same package. The test was repeated successfully three times. A second test was made similar to the first except that three boxes were placed together, two side by side with one placed on top. One cartridge was detonated in one of the lower boxes. There was no sym-

thetic detonation of other cartridges in the same box or in the two adjacent boxes. A third test demonstrated the ability of the cartridges to withstand direct fire exposure without detonation. The three boxes tested were all completely consumed in a fire. Many of the cartridge cases melted. No detonations were heard during the burning nor was there any physical evidence of detonations following the fire.

Interested persons are invited to give their views on this proposal. Communications should identify the docket number and be submitted in duplicate to the Secretary, Hazardous Materials Regulations Board, Department of Transportation, 400 Sixth Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20590. Communications received on or before May 12, 1970, will be considered before final action is taken on the proposal. All comments received will be available for examination by interested persons at the Office of the Secretary, Hazardous Materials Regulations Board, both before and after the closing date for comments.

In consideration of the foregoing, the Hazardous Materials Regulations Board proposes to amend Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

In § 173.100 paragraph (v) would be amended to read as follows:

§ 173.100 Definition of Class C explosives.

(v) Oil well cartridges are tubular devices each containing not more than 350 grains of propellant powder and having no ignition device or element. Cartridges must be constructed and packed so that they will be incapable of functioning en masse as a result of exposure to external flame.

This proposal is made under the authority of sections 831-835 of title 18, United States Code, section 9 of the Department of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1657), and title VI and section 902(h) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (49 U.S.C. 1421-1430 and 1472(h)).

Issued in Washington, D.C. on March 3, 1970.

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Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, By
direction of Commandant,
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R. N. WHITMAN,
Administrator,
Federal Railroad Administration.

F. C. TURNER,
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Board Member, For the
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