



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

[ 49 CFR Part 178 ]

[Docket No. HM-41; Notice No. 70-2]

TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS  
MATERIALS

Specifications for Fiberboard Boxes;  
Stitching Staples

The Hazardous Materials Regulations Board is considering amending several sections of Part 178 of the Hazardous Materials Regulations dealing with the specifications for staples used in the construction of fiberboard boxes. The proposed amendments would provide industry with more flexibility in the making of boxes while maintaining a minimum requirement for the strength and efficiency of material used.

A petition for rule making received by the Board requested that changes be made to the existing requirements for staples. At the present time the regulations specify in great detail just exactly how the stitching staples must be manufactured, including dimensional limitations. However, the Board in its Docket HM-7; Notice No. 68-5 stated its intent to convert the regulations from

specific specifications to more general performance standards. Since the primary concern is a level of safety performance, the Board feels it more appropriate to specify a level of performance in terms of an equivalency rather than to prescribe the construction of staples.

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 April 7, 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 is considering amending the hazardous materials regulations as follows:

(A) Section 178.205-6 would be amended to read as follows:

§ 178.205 Specification 12B; fiberboard boxes.

§ 178.205-6 Stitching staples.

Stitching staples must be made in such a configuration that their holding capability as installed will not be less than that of flat steel staples  $\frac{3}{32}$  x 0.019 inch in cross section and not less than  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch wide.

(B) Section 178.206-6 would be amended to read as follows:

§ 178.206 Specification 12C; fiberboard boxes.

§ 178.206-6 Stitching staples.

Stitching staples must be made in such a configuration that their holding capability as installed will not be less than that of flat steel staples  $\frac{3}{32}$  x 0.019 inch in cross section and not less than  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch wide.

(C) Section 178.207-5 would be amended to read as follows:

§ 178.207 Specification 12D; fiberboard boxes.

§ 178.207-5 Stitching staples.

Stitching staples must be made in such a configuration that their holding capability as installed will not be less than that of flat steel staples  $\frac{3}{32}$  x 0.019 inch in cross section and not less than  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch wide.

(D) Section 178.209-5 would be amended to read as follows:

§ 178.209 Specification 12H; fiberboard boxes.

§ 178.209-5 Stitching staples.

Stitching staples must be made in such a configuration that their holding capability as installed will not be less than that of flat steel staples  $\frac{3}{32}$  x 0.019 inch in cross section and not less than  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch wide. Material used must be at least equivalent to copper coated steel in non-sparking quality.

(E) Section 178.214-5 would be amended to read as follows:

§ 178.214 Specification 23F; fiberboard boxes.

§ 178.214-5 Stitching staples.

Stitching staples must be made in such a configuration that their holding capability as installed will not be less than that of flat steel staples  $\frac{3}{32}$  x 0.019 inch in cross section and not less than  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch wide. Material used must be at least equivalent to copper coated steel in non-sparking quality.

(F) Section 178.218-4 would be amended to read as follows:

§ 178.218 Specification 23G; special cylindrical fiberboard box for high explosives.

§ 178.218-4 Stitching staples.

Stitching staples must be made in such a configuration that their holding capability as installed will not be less than that of flat steel staples  $\frac{3}{32}$  x 0.019 inch in cross section and not less than  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch wide. Material used must be at least equivalent to copper coated steel in non-sparking quality.

(G) Section 178.219-4 would be amended to read as follows:

§ 178.219 Specification 23H; fiberboard boxes.

§ 178.219-4 Stitching staples.

Stitching staples must be made in such a configuration that their holding capability as installed will not be less than that of flat steel staples  $\frac{3}{32}$  x 0.019 inch in cross section and not less than  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch wide. Material used must be at least equivalent to copper coated steel in non-sparking quality.

These proposals are 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 January 23, 1970.

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

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