



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

**FEB 26 2008**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Mr. Chris W. Gibson  
EHS&R Manager  
Hawkins, Inc.  
3100 East Hennepin Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Ref. No.: 08-0027

Dear Mr. Gibson:

This is in response to your January 22, 2008 letter requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) applicable to cylinders. Your scenario involves the loading requirements for a highway shipment of cylinders in accordance with § 177.840(a)(1). Specifically, you ask if a cylinder not equipped with a pressure relief device and filled with anhydrous ammonia may be loaded in a horizontal position. Anhydrous ammonia may be offered for domestic transportation as a Division 2.2 material or, otherwise, as a Division 2.3 material.

The answer is yes. The last sentence in § 177.840(a)(1) specifies “a pressure relief device, when installed, must be in communication with the vapor space of a cylinder containing a Division 2.1 (flammable gas) material.” This provision does not apply to a cylinder not equipped with a pressure relief device or a cylinder not containing a Division 2.1 material. Therefore, the cylinders you describe may be transported in a horizontal position.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Hattie L. Mitchell  
Chief, Regulatory Review and Reinvention  
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards

HAWKINS, INC.

Satherthwaite  
§ 177.840(a)(1)

Highway Cylinders  
08-0027

January 22, 2008

Mr. Edward T. Mazzullo  
Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards  
U.S. DOT/PHMSA (PHH-10)  
400 7th Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

**URGENT REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATION**

**RE: 49 CFR 177.840(a)(1)**

Dear Mr. Mazzullo:

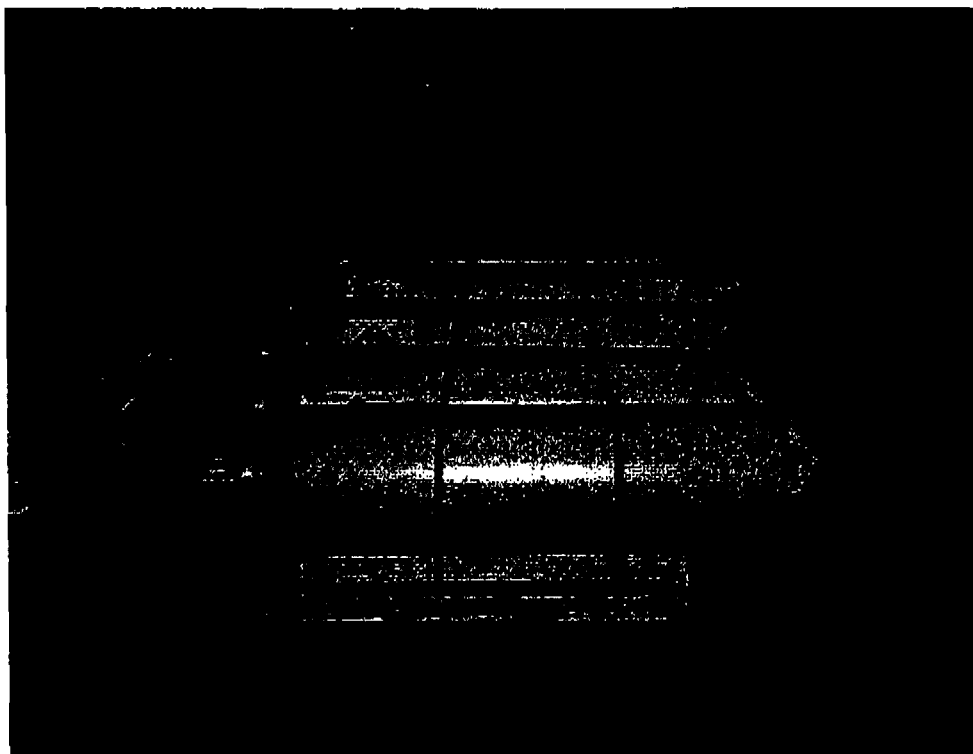
49 CFR 177.840(a)(1) states the following:

(a)(1) Cylinders. Cylinders containing Class 2 gases must be securely restrained in an upright or horizontal position, loaded in racks, or packed in boxes or crates to prevent the cylinders from being shifted, overturned or ejected from the motor vehicle under normal transportation conditions. However, after December 31, 2003, a pressure relief device, when installed, must be in communication with the vapor space of a cylinder containing a Division 2.1 (flammable gas) material.

Anhydrous ammonia is shipped in 50#, 100#, and 150# cylinders, without any type of pressure relief device.

Based on the regulation above, can cylinders of anhydrous ammonia be shipped in a horizontal position.?

For an example, please see the picture below:



If you have any questions, I can be reached at 612-331-6910, x8551, fax at 612-331-5304, or at [chris.Gibson@hawkinsinc.com](mailto:chris.Gibson@hawkinsinc.com)

Written replies can be sent to the following;

C. W Gibson  
EHS&R Manager  
Hawkins, Inc.  
3100 East Hennepin Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chris W. Gibson  
EHS&R Manager  
Hawkins, Inc.