



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

FEB 5 1998

Mr. Vince Mendoza
Stresau Laboratory, Inc.
N8265 Medley Road
Spooner, WI 54801-7819

Dear Mr. Mendoza:

This is in response to your recent facsimile and to confirm the interpretation we provided you in our phone conversation last week concerning the classification and testing of fertilizer. As stated, the observation period for the UN Trough Test (Test for determining self-sustaining exothermic decomposition of fertilizers containing nitrates, Test S.1) is not 20 minutes. If propagation continues throughout the substance, the fertilizer is considered to meet the hazard of self-sustaining decomposition. Therefore, in your case where 4-6 hours transpired before propagation throughout the substance occurred, the product would be considered to meet the criteria for self-sustaining decomposition.

I hope this information is helpful. If we can be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward T. Mazzullo".

Edward T. Mazzullo
Director, Office of Hazardous
Materials Standards

STRESAU LABORATORY INC.

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FAX TO: MR. BOB RICHARDS

COMPANY: DOT

FAX NUMBER: 202-366-5713

FOLLOW UP NUMBER: 202-366-0656

FROM: Vince Mendoza

DATE: 30 SEPT 97

of pages 0 + cover sheet = 1 pages

HELLO MR. RICHARDS: FOLLOWUP TO OUR CALL THIS MORNING:
 I AM SEEKING VERIFICATION AS TO DOT'S INTERPRETATION OF
 THE CRITERIA OF SELF SUSTAINING DECOMPOSITION OF A
 FERTILIZER IN THE TROUGH TEST, UN TEST S.1.
 PLEASE FAX YOUR DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS TO ME AT
 THE ABOVE FAX NUMBER. I AM ON TRAVEL SO THE NUMBER
 IS NOT MY OFFICE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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