



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

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

AUG 10 1999

Mr. Robert J. Ten Eyck
Director, Technical Services
Ten-E Packaging Services, Inc.
1666 County Road 74
Newport, Minnesota 55055

Ref. No: 99-0054

Dear Mr. Ten Eyck:

This is in response to your letter of March 1, 1999, requesting clarification on the requirements for testing packagings under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR parts 171-180). Specifically you ask whether each closure for a packaging used under Variation 5 of § 172.601(g) must be tested when the periodic design requalification is performed.

The answer is no. Nothing in the HMR requires testing of each different closure used under Variation 5.

I hope this information is helpful.

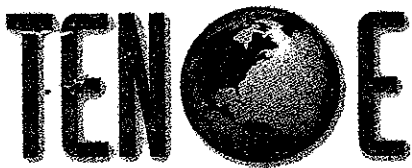
Sincerely,

Delmer F. Billings
Chief, Standards Development
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



990054

178.601



Setting the Standard

§ 178.601

99-0054

March 1, 1999

Edward Mazzullo
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards
DHM-10
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Research and Special Programs Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ed:

I am writing to request clarification on the use of selective testing provisions for single packagings found in Section 178.601(g)(5) of Title 49 CFR. Do the periodic retesting provisions found in Section 178.601(e) apply to those packagings with different closure devices or gaskets qualified under the Variation 5 selective testing provisions? For example, a manufacturer design qualifies a 20 liter, UN 1H1 drum with a 2" pipe threaded plug and then employs selective testing Variation 5 to qualify alternative closures such as a 2" buttress plug, a crimp-on closure with pour spout and a friction-fit plug. When the 12 month periodic retest date arrives, is the manufacturer obligated to evaluate all the closure systems identified above or only the 2" pipe threaded plug design for which complete design qualification testing was originally conducted ?

Your clarification on this testing matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Robert J. Ten Eyck
Director, Technical Services

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