



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

JUL 1 - 2002

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

Mr. Jonathan Weidemann
Texas Commission on Fire Protection
Post Office Box 2286
Austin, Texas 78768-2286

Ref. No.: 02-0023

Dear Mr. Weidemann:

This is in response to your letter requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) pertaining to the qualification and maintenance of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) composite cylinders. Your questions are paraphrased and answered as follows:

Q. As required by the HMR, SCBA cylinders must be marked a specific way. Are there any exceptions to the way SCBA cylinders are marked, and if so what are the exceptions?

A. Your understanding is not correct that cylinders are marked in accordance with the HMR. SCBA composite cylinders are nonspecification cylinders manufactured under exemptions issued by the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety (AAHMS) or special permits granted by Transport Canada. An exemption, as defined in § 171.8, is a document that authorizes a person to perform a function that is not otherwise authorized under the HMR. Therefore, the requirements pertaining to the qualification, maintenance, and use of SCBA cylinders are found in the applicable exemption. In addition, exemptions may vary according to the cylinder model or design, therefore each exemption should be reviewed in its entirety. You may obtain copies of the exemptions at the following website: http://hazmat.dot.gov/exemptions_index.htm. You may also contact the Office of Hazardous Materials Exemptions and Approvals by telephone (202) 366-4535 to obtain copies.

Q. Where can we find identification numbers for those facilities that perform hydrostatic testing and if the number is valid?

A. Under the retest authorization requirements in § 173.34(e)(2), any person who performs a hydrostatic test or a modified hydrostatic test is required to be approved and hold

a current retesters identification number issued by RSPA and operate in compliance with the terms of the retester identification number issuance letter. Unless otherwise provided in the issuance letter, an approval expires five years from the date of issuance. A list of authorized retesters of cylinders is available on the Internet at the following website:

http://hazmat.dot.gov/files/approvals/hydro/hydro_retesters.htm

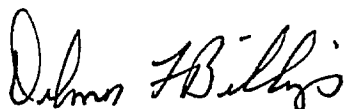
The retester identification number, the name and address, the classes of cylinders authorized for retest, the date of the most recent authorization and current status of the retester is provided. You may also contact the Office of Hazardous Material Safety Office of Exemptions and Approvals at 202-366-4512 to assist you in determining the retester's current status and recent authorization.

Q. How can we know if hydrostatic inspection and test facilities are certified and if their certification is current. We would also like to know if the individual that is performing the inspection is currently certified.

A. The AAHMS issues retester identification numbers to facilities not individuals as evidence of approval to requalify DOT specification and exemption cylinders. As provided in § 173.34(e)(2), a retester approval is based on the retester's application, the inspection report and recommendation submitted by an independent inspection agency. A retester identification number is in effect for a maximum of five (5) years, at which time the approval holder must apply for renewal.

I trust this satisfies your inquiry. Please contact us if we can be of more assistance.

Sincerely,



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

Texas
Commission on
Fire Protection



P.O. Box 2286 Austin, TX 78768-2286 (512) 239-4911 (512) 239-4917 info@tcfp.state.tx.us

Webb
\$ 173.34

Cylinders
02-0023

November 9, 2001

U.S. Department of Transportation
Research & Special Programs Administration
Office of Hazardous Materials Safety
400 7th Street Southwest
Washington D.C., 20590
Attention: Mr. Edward Mazzullo

Dear Mr. Mazzullo,

The Texas Commission on Fire Protection is an agency that enforces State Statute within the State of Texas in regards to Firefighter Safety. We at the Commission inspect fire departments throughout the state, and part of our inspection process is to review records of Hydrostatic Testing of cylinders used on Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). We are in need of specific data to insure that our Compliance Officers have current and correct information to carry out our mission.

The first question that we have concerns the proper marking of SCBA cylinders. Per 49 CFR, SCBA cylinders are to be marked in a specific way. We would like to know if there are any exceptions to the way cylinders are marked, and if so what are the exceptions. This concerns all types of SCBA cylinders.

Our second question also concerns the marking of the SCBA cylinders. As per 49 CFR every facility doing hydrostatic testing must mark the cylinder inspected with the facilities identification number. Our question is where can we find out who the number belongs to and if this number is valid.

Our third question concerns the facilities doing hydrostatic testing. We know that to perform hydrostatic testing, individuals performing the inspection/test as well as the facility must be certified. We would like to know how facilities become certified and how we can determine if their certification is current. Like wise with individuals. We would also like to know if an individual that we find doing cylinder testing is currently certified.

The answers to the questions can be sent to the following address;

Texas Commission on Fire Protection
P.O. Box 2286
Austin, Texas 78768-2286

Attention: Jonathan Weidemann

OR by fax at (512) 239-4918

We would like to thank you for your assistance with these questions. If you need clarification pertaining to any of the questions above, please feel free to contact me at (512) 239-4964.

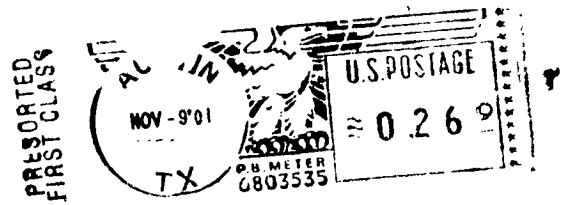
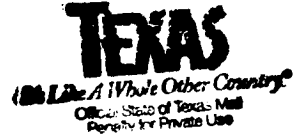
Sincerely,

Jonathan W. Weidemann



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