



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

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

AUG 16 2002

Mr. Stephen A. Kemp  
Director, Environmental Services  
St. John's Health System  
1235 East Cherokee  
Springfield, MO 65804-2263

Reference No. 02-0155

Dear Mr. Kemp:

This is in response to your letter and July 16, 2002 telephone conversation with a member of my staff concerning the transportation of "Regulated medical waste, 6.2, UN 3291, PG II" under 49 CFR 173.134(b)(3).

Your understanding of the exceptions in § 173.134(b)(3) is correct. As provided by § 173.134(b)(3), a regulated medical waste that is transported by a private or contract carrier is excepted from: (1) the "INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCE" label, if the outer packaging is marked with a "BIOHAZARD" marking conforming to 29 CFR 1910.1030, and (2) for other than a waste culture or stock of an infectious substance, the specific packaging requirements in § 173.197, if packaged in a rigid, non-bulk, non-specification packaging conforming to §§ 173.24 and 173.24a, and 29 CFR 1910.1030.

I hope this satisfies your request.

Sincerely,

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



020155

173.134



Edmonson  
§ 173.134  
§ 173.197

Regulated Medical  
Waste

02-0155

USDOT  
RSA  
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards  
Edward Mazzullo  
400 7th Street, DHM10 8422  
S.W. Washington, D.C., 20590

May 16, 2002

Dear Mr. Mazzullo:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm my understanding/interpretation of the packaging requirements for Regulated Medical Waste when it is being packaged, handled and transported by a Health System utilizing its own employees and vehicles.

St. Johns Health System is a fully integrated health care network with physician's clinics in the surrounding communities that produce small quantities of Regulated Medical Waste. We have a steam sterilizer on the Main Campus of our Health Center that is utilized to sterilize RMW so it can be appropriately disposed. Currently we are packaging and transporting RMW from the Physicians Clinics back to the Health Center for sterilization and disposal using our vehicles and employees.

I am seeking clarification of the packaging requirements related to the packaging of RMW applicable to my operation. It is my interpretation that as a private carrier under 49 CFR 173.134 we are excepted from the packaging and labeling requirements of 49 CFR 173.197.

Under this exception we are required to:

1. Package in rigid non-bulk packaging that conforms to the general packaging requirements of 173.24, 173.24a and 29 CFR 1910.1030.
2. The packages must be marked with the "BIOHAZARD" marking in accordance with the Department of Labor regulations in 29 CFR 1910.1030.

Under the exception we are not required to do the following:

1. Use a package certified at the Packing Group II level.
2. Include the specific UN identification number on the packaging label.

Please advise me at the address below as to the accuracy of my interpretation of the regulations as they apply to my situation.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Kemp,  
Director, Environmental Services  
(417) 885-2834

1235 EAST CHEROKEE ■ SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65804-2263  
417-885-2000 ph.

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