



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

OCT 2 2002

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

Mr. Glen K. Wanczyk
Hazardous Materials Consultant
D&G Consulting, Inc.
3708 South Monarch Drive
Bountiful, Utah 84010

Ref. No. 02-0204

Dear Mr. Wanczyk:

This responds to your letter concerning exceptions accorded to air bag modules that are installed in completed components under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). Specifically, you inquire whether a completed aircraft seat assembly containing an approved air bag module is excepted from the requirements of the HMR under § 173.166(d).

The answer is yes. An approved air bag module or seat-belt pretensioner that is installed in an aircraft or completed aircraft component (e.g., seat assembly) meets the intent of § 173.166(d) and, therefore, is not subject to the HMR.

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

Sincerely,

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



020204

173.166(d)

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Stevens
§ 173.166(d)
Air Bags
02-0204

July 24, 2002

Associate Administrator
Research and Special Programs
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street SW Room 8422
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Attention: Mr. Edward Mazzullo
Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards

Subject: DOT Interpretation

Dear Mr. Mazzullo,

I represent a company that buys air bag inflators from an established air bag inflator manufacturer. They make a slight modification to the inflator then send the inflator to an aircraft seat manufacturer who in turn installs the inflator into a module located inside an aircraft seat. The aircraft seat with the inflator/module is then sent to an aircraft manufacturer for installation into passenger aircraft. The modified inflator has been approved by the RSPA as verified by a US DOT Competent Authority document. I believe shipment of the aircraft seats, with the inflator/module installed, and the installation of the seat in the aircraft meets the intent outlined in Title 49 CFR 173.166(d) which allows the shipments to be considered non-regulated.

Please advise if you agree that the above-described scenario meets the intent of Title 49 CFR 173.166(d). Also, please advise what action is required if the words "aircraft or completed aircraft components" need to be included into the above CFR provision.

Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation in this most important matter.

Sincerely,



Glen K. Wanczyk
Hazardous Materials Consultant