



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

DEC 11 2002

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

Mr. Christopher J. Widman  
Explosives Transportation Specialist  
Alliant Techsystems  
Twin Cities Arsenal  
New Brighton, MN 55112

Ref. No. 02-0218

Dear Mr. Widman:

This responds to your letter regarding a manufacturer's classification of explosives under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). Specifically, you inquire whether Cartridges for small arms with inert projectiles, each not exceeding 50 caliber but containing small amounts of pyrotechnics (tracer material), may be classed by a manufacturer as Division 1.4S under § 173.56(h).

The answer is yes, provided the projectiles with the tracer material contains no additional pyrotechnic or incendiary material in their composition. Under these conditions, the cartridges may be classed, without further approval, by the manufacturer as Division 1.4S under the conditions specified in § 173.56(h).

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

Sincerely,

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



020218

173.56(h)

Stevens  
§ 173.56 (h)  
Explosive  
02-0218



Twin Cities Arsenal  
New Brighton MN 55112  
Telephone (651) 639-3334  
Fax (651) 639-3341

21 August 2002

Mr. Ed Mazzullo  
US Department of Transportation  
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards  
DHM-10  
400 Seventh Street SW  
Washington DC 20590-0001

Dear Mr. Mazzullo

AlliantTechsystems (ATK) is requesting a ruling on whether or not various ATK manufactured small caliber ammunition not exceeding 50 caliber is qualified to be shipped under the provision of 49CFR 173.56 (h).

**173.56 (h) Defined**

As you are aware, CFR49 173.56 (h) specifically states that requirements of 173.56 do not apply to cartridges, small arms which are:

- (1) Not a forbidden explosive under 173.54 of the subchapter;
- (2) Ammunition for, rifle, pistol, or shotgun;
- (3) Ammunition with inert projectile and blank ammunition; and
- (4) Ammunition not exceeding 50 caliber for rifle or pistol cartridges or 8 gauge for shotgun shells.

Cartridges, small arms meeting the criteria of this paragraph (h) may be assigned a classification code of 1.4S by the manufacturer.

**Background**

ATK currently manufactures significant amounts and calibers not exceeding 50- caliber of ammunition that is qualified to be transported under the provision of 173.56 (h). ATK assigns a 1.4S classification ourselves. We then package, mark and label accordingly.

ATK is not sure if a specific type of ammunition is authorized to transport under 173.56 (h), and is requesting an official ruling from your office. The issue is relative to ATK manufactured ammunition that will not exceed 50-caliber, but has tracer/igniter material (pyrotechnics) in the projectile.

Many of the cartridges ATK manufactures not exceeding 50-caliber do contain small amounts of tracer/igniter material in the projectile. In addition, ATK manufactures several configurations of ammunition we refer to as 4 X 1. The 4 X 1 configuration means every fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) round is traced. We have several configurations of ammunition whereas; the four cartridges preceding are totally inert projectile in type. The cartridges with inert projectiles as stand alone items, are qualified to transport under the provisions of 173.56 (h). It's the 5<sup>th</sup> traced cartridge that we are uncertain as to whether or not this configuration falls within the regulation of 173.56 (h).

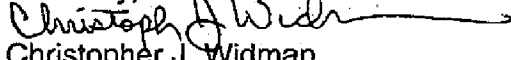
ATK has ammunition that is traced for both military and sporting goods applications.

**Requested Ruling**

ATK requests that your office offer a ruling on whether or not ammunition not exceeding 50-caliber containing tracer/igniter material (pyrotechnics) in the projectile is authorized to transport under the provisions of CFR49 173.56 (h).

If you have any questions regarding the above request, please contact me at (651) 633-2301 ext. 1621. My fax number is (651) 633-7166.

Sincerely,

  
Christopher J. Widman  
Explosives Transportation Specialist