



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

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

JAN 14 2005

Mr. Christopher A. McCabe  
Safety Director  
PRK Drilling & Blasting, Inc.  
115 Angels Way  
Winchester, VA 22603

Ref. No.: 04-0235

Dear Mr. McCabe:

This responds to your letter dated October 5, 2004, regarding the requirements for entering the total quantity for explosives on a shipping paper in accordance with the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). A shipping paper you currently use was enclosed for our review.

PRK Drilling & Blasting, Inc. (PRK) has between five and 7 blasters picking up explosives from its explosive storage area and transporting them to various job sites, daily. The blasters carry between one and 500 blasting caps. PRK accounts for these blasting caps by "piece" on the shipping paper. Recently, you have been made aware that for explosives the shipping paper must now contain the "net explosive mass."

You suggest that the unit of measurement used should be "piece" instead of "net explosive mass." Your concern is that an inspector may find that many of the blaster tabulations are incorrect and leave the company open to numerous violations and enforcement actions. Specifically, you ask if you may continue to use the enclosed shipping paper for your company's daily shipments, with the total quantity of the blasting caps entered by "piece."

The answer is no. In accordance with §172.202(a)(5)(i), for a Class 1 (explosive) material, such as "Detonator Assemblies, non-electric, 1.4B, UN0361, II," the quantity for these blasting caps must be shown on the shipping paper as "net explosive mass." Thus, the shipping paper you enclosed showing the quantity as "piece" for these blasting caps is unacceptable and may not be used. For an explosive that is an article, such as blasting caps, it is our determination that the net mass of the article must be used to satisfy the total quantity requirement in 172.202(a)(5)(i).




040235

172.202(a)(5)(i)

For your information, on December 20, 2004, a final rule was published in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 76044; Docket HM-215G) which clarified the shipping paper requirements in §172.202(a)(5)(i) of the HMR. Thus, for an explosive that is an article, the entry on the shipping paper must be the net mass of the explosive article or the explosive substance contained in the article similar to a provision in the United Nations Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

I hope this satisfies your inquiry. If we can be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,



John A. Gale  
Chief, Standards Development  
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards

Engrum  
§ 172.202 (a)(5)(i)  
Shipping Papers  
04-0235

**PRK DRILLING & BLASTING, INC.**

115 ANGELS WAY WINCHESTER, VA 22603 (540)888-4959 PH (540)888-9998 FAX

October 5, 2004

Edward Mazzullo, Director  
Office of IIAZMAT Standards  
USDOT / RSPA (DHM-10)  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street West  
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Re: Request of Letter of Interpretation

Sir,

My name is Christopher A. McCabe. I am the safety director of PRK Drilling & Blasting based out of Winchester Virginia. We have between 5 and 7 blasters picking up explosives from our explosive storage area and then traveling to various jobsites daily. The blasters carry between 1 and 500 blasting caps.

I am requesting a letter of interpretation on CFR49 172.202.A.5.i. We currently account for blasting caps by "piece" on our shipping paper. I have been told by RSPA that you must now list the "Net Explosive Mass" of each blasting cap on the shipping paper which would be approx .0027 per piece. Having the shipping paper filled out according to this requirement would have the blaster do tabulations that serve no specific purpose. The unit of measurement used is "piece" and seems to be appropriate for blasting caps (detonators) and leadline.

Complying with this requirement will provide for any inspector to find many of the blaster tabulations to be incorrect. This leaves the company open for numerous violations and enforcement actions. As a practical matter, it would seem easier to notate that each of our transports are under 1 ½ lbs of "explosive mass" in blasting caps and leadline. This would eliminate the individual "explosive mass" listing

May we continue to use the attached shipping paper for our daily transports?

Thank You,



Christopher A. McCabe  
Safety Director / PRK Drilling & Blasting

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Start Time \_\_\_\_\_  
 End Time \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Time Worked \_\_\_\_\_

Explosives Shipping Paper  
 PRK Drilling & Blasting, Inc.  
 Virginia Division  
 (540)888-4959

Driver: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Truck#: \_\_\_\_\_

Hazardous Materials -- Certificate of Registration No. 061300 013 014IK Issued: 06/03/03 Exp: 06/06

#Units Shipped	Item Shipped	Item Returned	#Units Returned
<b>Boosters, 1.1D, UN0042, II ERG page 112</b>			
NEM	Pentex	Pentex	NEM
<b>EXPLOSIVE, BLASTING, TYPE E, 1.1D, UN0241, II ERG Guide 112</b>			
lbs.	Power Ex Plus	Power Ex Plus	lbs.
lbs.			lbs.
lbs.			lbs.
lbs.			lbs.
<b>EXPLOSIVE, BLASTING, TYPE A, 1.1D, UN0081, II ERG Guide 112</b>			
lbs.	Power Ditch	Power Ditch	lbs.
lbs.	Power Frac	Power Frac	lbs.
<b>EXPLOSIVE, BLASTING, TYPE E, 1.5D, UN0332, II ERG Guide 112</b>			
lbs.	Apex Ultra	Apex Ultra	lbs.
<b>Explosive, Blasting Type B, (WR Anfo), 1.5D, UN0331, II w/DOT-E-11156</b>			
lbs			lbs
<b>Ammonium Nitrate-Fuel Oil Mixture(contains only prilled ammonium nitrate and fuel oil) 1.5D, NA0331, II DOT-E-11156</b>			
lbs			lbs
<b>Articles, Explosive N.O.S. (contains HMX &amp; Aluminum Powder), 1.4S, UN0349, II Leadline ERG Guide 114</b>			
ft	NEM=	NEM=	ft
<b>Detonator Assemblies, Non-Electric, 1.4B, UN0361, II, (All Caps) ERG Guide 114 Net Explosive Mass</b>			
NEM=	pcs	' Handidets	NEM=
NEM=	pcs	' Handidets	NEM=
NEM=	pcs	' Handidets	NEM=
NEM=	pcs	' Handidets	NEM=
NEM=	pcs	' Handidets	NEM=
<b>Detonator Assemblies, Non-Electric, 1.4S, UN0500, II, (Surface Delays) ERG Guide 114</b>			
NEM=	pcs		NEM=
NEM=	pcs		NEM=

**NEM Chart : Multiply pieces shipped by chart weight to get NEM \* NEM=Net Explosive Mass**

Exel Handidets = .0027 ea. Exel T&D = .0012 ea. Boosters (#12) = .75 ea.  
 Exel Connectadet = .0007 ea. Boosters (#8) = .5 ea. Lead Line = .0000107 per foot

Shipping Point: Front Royal Magazine Site. List destination and route listed below:

RETURN: By signing below, the driver certifies that the above named materials are properly classified, described, packaged, marked, and labeled and are in proper condition for transport, according to the applicable regulations of the Department of Transportation, and the route plan provided by the shipper will be followed.

Driver Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Supervisor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The original of this form, without NEM references, was approved by Richard Brennon Fed Mot Carrier Safety 202-366-6121 on 5-22-03. NEM references added in compliance with CFR49 172.202.A.5.i. on 10/8/04.

\*\*\*EMERGENCY PHONE (540)888-4979\*\*\*