



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

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

FEB 11 2005

Mr. Ward Hildreth
7405 Addie Drive
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Reference No.: 05-0008

Dear Mr. Hildreth:

This responds to your letter requesting clarification of the requirements regarding the transportation of propane by a non-profit organization for disaster relief under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). Your questions are paraphrased and answered below:

Q1. Are there regulations pertaining to the quantity and size of propane tanks that can be transported in a trailer?

A1. There are no limits on the quantity and size of propane tanks that may be transported in a trailer provided the tanks comply with § 173.24, the cylinder requirements in § 173.304, or the cargo tank and portable tank requirements in § 173.315 of the HMR, as applicable.

Q2. Can a 500-600 pound propane tank mounted on a utility trailer be transported?

A2. The answer is yes, provided your propane tanks; i.e. cylinders with a water capacity ranging from 60 to 72 gallons, conform to the requirements specified in § 173.304(d). Additional requirements for transporting Class 2 (gases) by highway are found in §§ 177.834 and 173.840 of the HMR.

I hope this satisfies your request.

Sincerely,

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



050008

173.24
173.315

Ward Hildreth
7405 Addie Drive
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
January 10, 2005

Betts
\$171.1
\$173.6
\$173.315
Portable Tanks
05-0008

Edward Mazzullo, Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards
Fax 202-366-3012

Dear Sir,

This morning I had a conversation with a member of your staff regarding the non-commercial transport of propane gas. Following her suggestion, I am writing to request an opinion.

The question relates to a disaster response feeding kitchen operated by volunteers and owned by a non-profit religious organization. The unit responds to floods, hurricanes, and other disasters in Virginia and other states. The meals prepared by the kitchen are provided free of charge to victims.

We transport several propane tanks on the trailer to supply cooking equipment. The tanks are not connected to the cooking equipment while they are on the trailer.

Our question is, are their regulations regarding the quantity and size of tanks we can transport in the trailer? Can we transport a large 500 – 600 pound tank mounted on a utility trailer?

Thank you for your assistance


Ward Hildreth