



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

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

AUG 3 2005

Ms. Pam Guffain
Director, Government Affairs
The Fertilizer Institute
820 First Street, NE Suite 430
Washington, DC 20002

Reference: 05-0165

Dear Ms. Guffain:

This is in response to your letter regarding the appropriate shipping description for various fertilizer blends under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR 171-180). The first blend consists of 50% ammonium nitrate, 25% potash, and 25% ammonium sulfate. The second fertilizer blend consists of 34% ammonium nitrate, 33% potash, 33% ammonium sulfate. The third is a blend of 75% ammonium nitrate, 12.5% potash and 12.5% ammonium sulfate.

Section 173.22 specifies that it is the shipper's responsibility to properly class and describe a material in accordance with the HMR. This office does not perform that function. Special provision 132, assigned to the entry "Ammonium nitrate based fertilizer, 9, UN 2071" applies to ammonium nitrate based fertilizers that (1) contain not more than 70% ammonium nitrate and not more than 0.4% total combustible, organic material calculated as carbon or (2) contain not more than 45% ammonium nitrate and unrestricted combustible material. Based on the criteria in Special provision 132 and the information you provided, it is our opinion that the first and second fertilizer blends specified should be described as "Ammonium nitrate based fertilizer, 9, UN 2071." Provided that the third fertilizer blend does not exhibit explosive properties of Class 1 when tested in accordance with Test Series 1 and 2 of Class 1 in the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria (see Special provision 52), this blend should be described as "Ammonium nitrate based fertilizer, 5.1, UN 2067."

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

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



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172-101
173-22



The Fertilizer Institute

Nourish, Replenish, Grow

Pam Guffain
Director
Government Relations

July 7, 2005

Edward Mazullo
Director, Hazardous Materials Standards
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20590

Dear Ed:

We are looking for an official interpretation regarding the appropriation classification of several different mixes of ammonium nitrate. If you could review the mixers below and advise if they fall into the 5.1 classification or Class 9 classification:

50% ammonium nitrate, 25% potash, 25% ammonium sulfate
34% ammonium nitrate, 33% potash, 33% ammonium sulfate
75% ammonium nitrate, 12.5% potash, 12.5% ammonium sulfate

Thank you very much and I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Pamela D. Guffain

Corbin
§172.101
§173.22
Classification
05-0165