



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

JUN 15 2006

Mr. Russell A. Karlins
Medical Waste Solutions, Inc.
P.O. Box 64787
Gary, IN 46401

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

Reference No. 06-0007

Dear Mr. Karlins:

This is in response to your e-mail to Ms. Susan Gorsky, Regulations Officer, Office of Hazardous Materials Standards, and e-mail to a member of my staff asking if re-useable polyethylene drums must be lined with a polyethylene liner before they can contain sharps containers filled with "Regulated medical waste, n.o.s., 6.2 (infectious), UN 3291, PG II" under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Parts 171-180). We apologize for the delay in responding an any inconvenience this may have caused.

Provided the packaging meets the applicable performance criteria under the HMR for the hazard classes it contains, the answer is no. If the use of a plastic liner is necessary to that packaging's performance, such as to satisfy the moisture or leak resistance criteria under § 173.134 or § 173.197, the liner must be used.

I hope this satisfies your request.

Sincerely,

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



060007

173.134
173.197

Drakeford, Carolyn <PHMSA>

From: Gorsky, Susan <PHMSA>
Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2006 2:45 PM
To: Drakeford, Carolyn <PHMSA>
Subject: FW: sharps containers

Edmonson
\$ 173.197
\$ 173.134.
Regulated Medical
Waste
06.0007

Could you make this an interp please for a written response to Mr. Karlins? Thanks.

Susan

From: Russell Karlins [mailto:russ@medicalwastesolutions.com]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2005 5:09 PM
To: Gorsky, Susan <PHMSA>
Cc: 'Mark Charles'; 'Jim Wiltjer'
Subject: sharps containers

Susan,

Hope this email finds you doing well. If you recall last week we spoke of the hospital that was written up because they were not placing a liner in the reusable plastic drum that contained their disposable sharps containers prior to shipping them off site. The hospital uses us as a commercial hauler and the sharps containers are placed inside of a reusable plastic drum for shipment.

The question is do they need to place a liner in a plastic drum that contains sharps containers prior to shipment? In the past you have answered with emails and on the phone by saying no. The hospital simply wants something more current to attach with their response from the inspection.

Have a great day and thank you very much for your help.

Russell A. Karlins
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1/4/2006