



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

APR 11 2006

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

Ms. Debbie Hape
Global Transportation Compliance Specialist
PGM Global Logistics
Pfizer, Inc.
1855 Shelby Oaks Drive North
Memphis, TN 38134

Ref. No. 06-0053

Dear Ms. Hape:

This is in response to your e-mail dated March 2, 2006 regarding the applicability of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 100-180) to shipping papers.

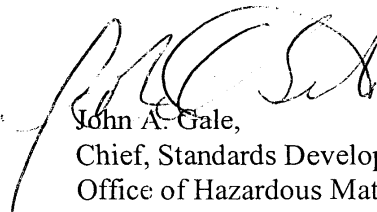
You state that the current Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Standards (VICS) standard bill of lading uses the abbreviation "DOT" instead of "Department of Transportation," in the shipper's certification statement required on shipping papers under § 172.204. You ask whether use of this abbreviation is acceptable under the HMR. You also state that the "Weight" column of the current VICS standard bill of lading does not contain the term "lbs." You ask if this omission is acceptable under the HMR.

The certification statement specified in § 172.204(a)(1) must be written as specified and may not be modified. Therefore, use of the abbreviation "DOT" in lieu of "Department of Transportation" in the shipper's certification statement is unacceptable.

Section 172.202(a)(5) requires the total quantity of hazardous materials covered by the shipping description to be indicated (by mass or volume, or by activity for Class 7 materials) and must include an indication of the applicable unit of measurement. There is no requirement in the HMR that restricts units of measurement to "lbs." Therefore, the term "lbs" is not required as a pre-populated field on shipping papers. However, you must provide an indication of a unit of measurement as part of the shipping description.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for other inquiries concerning the Hazardous Materials Regulations.

Sincerely,


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



060053

172.204

Drakeford, Carolyn <PHMSA>

From: Gorsky, Susan <PHMSA>
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2006 2:58 PM
To: Drakeford, Carolyn <PHMSA>
Subject: FW: VICIS Bill of Lading Compliance

Foster
§172.204(a)
Shipping Papers
06-0053

Please enter this in the interp data base. Thanks.

Susan

From: Hape, Debbie [mailto:Debbie.Hape@pfizer.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2006 12:53 PM
To: Gorsky, Susan <PHMSA>
Subject: VICIS Bill of Lading Compliance

Susan,

Industry is mandating that the VICIS Bill of Lading be used for all shipments. I have two DOT compliance questions relating to the current VICIS Standard BOL and hope that you will provide me with an official interpretation.

- Although the BOL has been revised in the past two years to now include the DOT-required Shipper Certification, the statement abbreviates the phrase Department of Transportation to "DOT." Is this compliant with DOT regulations? Per the 49 CFR, the statement must appear as stated in 172.204(a)(1) or (a)(2) - neither of these statements contain abbreviations.
- In the Carrier Information section, the "Weight" column does not contain the term "lbs." Is this acceptable per the DOT?

We want to be sure that the VICIS shipping document is DOT compliant for our hazardous materials shipments.

I have attached a copy of the current VICIS bill so you can review it in light of my questions.

<<VICIS_BOL.pdf>>

Thank you, Susan, I very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Debbie F. Hape, CHMM

Global Transportation Compliance Specialist
PGM Global Logistics
Pfizer Inc
1855 Shelby Oaks Drive North
Memphis, TN 38134

3/3/2006

II. The Standard Bill of Lading Form

VICS Standard BOL: WWW.VICS.ORG For Complete VICS BOL Guideline Information

Date: _____		BILL OF LADING				Page _____	
SHIP FROM				Bill of Lading Number: _____ BAR CODE SPACE			
Name: _____		Address: _____					
SHIP TO				CARRIER NAME: _____ Trailer number: _____ Seal number(s): _____ SCAC: _____ Pro number: _____			
Name: _____		Location #: _____					
THIRD PARTY FREIGHT CHARGES BILL TO:				BAR CODE SPACE Freight Charge Terms: (freight charges are prepaid unless marked otherwise) Prepaid _____ Collect _____ 3 rd Party _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Master Bill of Lading: with attached underlying Bills of Lading (check box)			
Name: _____		Address: _____					
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: _____							
CUSTOMER ORDER INFORMATION							
CUSTOMER ORDER NUMBER		# PKGS		WEIGHT		PALLET/SLIP (CIRCLE ONE)	
						<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
						<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
						<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
						<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
						<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	
GRAND TOTAL							
CARRIER INFORMATION							
HANDLING UNIT		PACKAGE		COMMODITY DESCRIPTION		LTL ONLY	
QTY	TYPE	QTY	TYPE	WEIGHT	H.M. (X)	NMFC #	CLASS
GRAND TOTAL							
Where the rate is dependent on value, shippers are required to state specifically in writing the agreed or declared value of the property as follows: *The agreed or declared value of the property is specifically stated by the shipper to be not exceeding _____ per _____						COD Amount: \$ _____ Fee Terms: Collect: <input type="checkbox"/> Prepaid: <input type="checkbox"/> Customer check acceptable: <input type="checkbox"/>	
NOTE Liability Limitation for loss or damage in this shipment may be applicable. See 49 U.S.C. § 14706(c)(1)(A) and (B). RECEIVED, subject to individually determined rates or contracts that have been agreed upon in writing between the carrier and shipper, if applicable, otherwise to the rates, classifications and rules that have been established by the carrier and are available to the shipper, on request, and to all applicable state and federal regulations.							
The carrier shall not make delivery of this shipment without payment of freight and all other lawful charges.						Shipper Signature _____	
SHIPPER SIGNATURE / DATE This is to certify that the above named materials are properly classified, described, packaged, marked and labeled, and are in proper condition for transportation according to the applicable regulations of the U.S. DOT.				Trailer Loaded: <input type="checkbox"/> By Shipper <input type="checkbox"/> By Driver		Freight Counted: <input type="checkbox"/> By Shipper <input type="checkbox"/> By Driver/pallets said to contain <input type="checkbox"/> By Driver/Pieces	
CARRIER SIGNATURE / PICKUP DATE Carrier acknowledges receipt of packages and required placards. Carrier certifies emergency response information was made available and/or carrier has the U.S. DOT emergency response guidebook or equivalent documentation in the vehicle. Property described above is received in good order, except as noted.							

II. The Standard Bill of Lading Form

VICS Standard BOL: WWW.VICS.ORG For Complete VICS BOL Guideline Information

Date: _____

SUPPLEMENT TO THE BILL OF LADING

Page _____

Bill of Lading Number: _____

CUSTOMER ORDER INFORMATION					
CUSTOMER ORDER NUMBER	# PKGS	WEIGHT	PALLET/SLIP (CIRCLE ONE)		ADDITIONAL SHIPPER INFO
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
			Y	N	
PAGE SUBTOTAL					

CARRIER INFORMATION								
HANDLING UNIT		PACKAGE		WEIGHT	H.M. (X)	COMMODITY DESCRIPTION <small>Commodities requiring special or additional care or attention in handling or stowing must be so marked and packaged as to ensure safe transportation with ordinary care. See Section 2(a) of NMFC Item 380</small>	LTL ONLY	
QTY	TYPE	QTY	TYPE				NMFC #	CLASS
						PAGE SUBTOTAL		