



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Ms. Sandra Richesin
Fed Ex Freight
P.O. Box 840
Harrison, AR 72602-0840

Ref. No. 08-0015

Dear Ms. Richesin:

This is in response to your letter requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) pertaining to the shipper's certification statement on shipping papers. You ask two questions pertaining to the signature that is required for the statement. The questions are paraphrased and answered below.

Q1. A shipping paper includes a shipper's certification statement as required by § 172.204. If the shipping paper has one designated place for a signature, is any location on the shipping paper acceptable for the signature that is required for the statement?

A1. Location of the signature anywhere on the same page as the certification statement constitutes signing of the statement, provided the signature is not specifically assigned to a statement not required by the HMR.

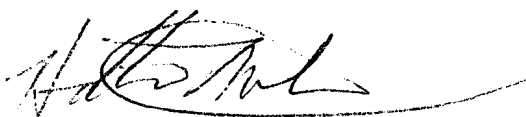
Q2. A shipping paper includes two designated places for signatures. One is specific to the shipper's certification statement and the other is located elsewhere on the shipping paper. The former is not signed; the latter is signed. Does this meet the requirements under the HMR for the shipper's certification signature?

A2. You did not submit an example of the shipping paper in question. Because the certification statement in this case includes a signature line specifically assigned to the certification statement, leaving it unsigned may be confusing and may cause frustration of

the shipment of hazardous materials. Although the HMR does not specify a location of the signature on a shipping paper, reasonable care should be taken to format a shipping paper that does not cause confusion.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hattie L. Mitchell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

§ 172.204

P.O. Box 840
Harrison, AR 72602-0840

2200 Forward Drive
Harrison, AR 72601

Telephone 1.870.741.9000
Toll-Free 1.800.874.4723
Fax 1.870.741.3003
fedex.com

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MC Intyre
§172.204(d)
Shipping Papers
08-0015

December 26, 2007

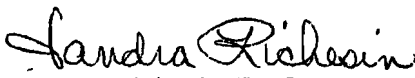
Mr. John A. Gale
Chief, Standards Development
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards
U.S. DOT - PHMSA
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Chief Gale,

This letter is a written request for interpretation of signature requirements for the shipper's certification on the shipping paper as stated in 49CFR §172.204(d). I have two questions, please. (1) If the shipping paper has one shipper signature area with a signature and the shipper certification statement is printed on the shipping paper, does that meet the requirement since there is no location requirement for the signature? (2) If the shipping paper has a specific signature area with the shipper certification, and it is not signed, yet there is another shipper signature area on the shipping paper and it is signed, does that meet the requirement?

I appreciate your time in reviewing these questions and look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,


Sandra Richesin, DER
Safety Compliance Administrator