



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration

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

NOV 18 2013

Mr. Tom Alexander
5255 Virginia Avenue
North Charleston, South Carolina 29406-3615

Ref. No.: 13-0180

Dear Mr. Alexander:

This responds to your August 27, 2013 letter requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) applicable to the placarding and marking of cargo tanks containing petroleum distillates. Specifically, your question pertains to a cargo tank equipped with two compartments. Compartment #1 contains "UN 1203, Gasoline"; Compartment #2 contains a residue of "NA 1993, Diesel fuel." You ask if the cargo tank should display both the "UN 1203" and "NA 1993" identification numbers when in transportation.

Under § 173.29 of the HMR, an empty packaging containing only the residue of a hazardous material shall be offered in transportation and transported in the same manner as when it previously contained a greater quantity of hazardous material. In addition, under § 172.336(c)(5), identification numbers are not required for each of the different petroleum distillate fuels transported in a cargo tank if the identification number for the petroleum distillate fuel with the lowest flash point is displayed. Therefore, in your scenario, it would be permitted for the shipper to only display a placard for the petroleum distillate with the lowest flash point.

I trust this satisfies your inquiry. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

T. Glenn Foster
Chief, Regulatory Review and Reinvention Branch
Standards and Rulemaking Division

Drakeford, Carolyn (PHMSA)

Andrews
172.336
172.101

From: INFOCNTR (PHMSA)
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2013 4:31 PM
To: Drakeford, Carolyn (PHMSA)
Subject: FW: Compartmentalized Trailer Placard interpretation

Placarding
13-0180

Hi Carolyn,

This caller requested we submit this e-mail as a formal letter of interpretation.

Thanks,
Victoria

From: Tom Alexander [mailto:tom.alexander@mwv.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2013 3:52 PM
To: INFOCNTR (PHMSA)
Subject: Compartmentalized Trailer Placard interpretation

Good afternoon. Am in need of a DOT interpretation.

We buy diesel fuel from a local distributor, who uses compartmentalized trailers. They haul gasoline in one of the compartments and diesel in one of the others. We're told they do not carry both compartments loaded at the same time, but after emptying the gasoline one, will go back to their terminal and load the diesel compartment for delivery to us. Thus the issue....

I understand that the gasoline compartment must carry the 1203 Flammable placard, as it is residue, but they are not placarding the diesel compartment as a 1993 Combustible. This is causing some concern at our facility on many fronts, as I believe they are misrepresenting the actual Hazard in the package. Also, the 1203 placards would not match the NA 1993, Combustible Liquid NOS paperwork. Emergency response would also be effected.

Should they be carrying 2 different Placards on the Trailer in this case, 1203 and 1993 ?
How would we know if they showed up with 1203 only, that they may be introducing gasoline to a our diesel storage tank?

172.336 outlines a few different scenarios on Identification number requirements but would like to get your input.

Thanks and please let me know if there are any questions or facts that I can further provide

Tom Alexander
843-740-4427

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