



U.S. Department of Transportation
**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration**

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

JUN 17 2010

Mr. Jack Wagner
Director, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs
Micro Scientific Industries, Inc.
1225 Carnegie Street, Suite 101
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Ref. No. 10-0112

Dear Mr. Wagner,

This responds to your letter dated May 7, 2010 requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) as they apply to an aqueous solution of alcohol that your company ships. The material that you ship contains 20% isopropyl alcohol, more than 75% water, and less than 5% of various non-hazardous surfactants. Specifically, you ask if the product described meets the exception for aqueous solutions of alcohol under the HMR.

The answer is yes. Aqueous solutions of alcohol, that contain no other hazardous materials, are excepted from the requirements of the HMR when they contain 24% or less alcohol by volume and no less than 50% water.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have further questions, please contact this Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles E. Betts".

Charles E. Betts
Chief, Standards Development
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



Where innovation
and knowledge
are our most
important products.

May 7, 2010

John A. Gale
U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Eichenlaub
§173.150(e)
Exceptions
10-0112

RE: Clarification on applicability of CFR §173.150(e)

Dear Mr. Gale:

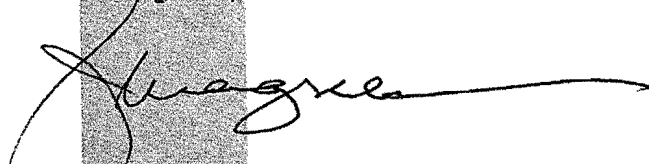
We are submitting this letter to request clarification as to whether or not a product that we ship is subject to the Hazardous Materials Regulation (HMR) or exempt as an "aqueous solution of alcohol" pursuant to 49 CFR §173.150(e).

The product contains 20% isopropyl alcohol and greater than 75% water and the remaining ingredients are nonhazardous surfactants.

It is our understanding that according to §173.150(e) an aqueous solution of alcohol may be reclassified as a combustible liquid, and is not subject to the HMR when it contains 24% or less alcohol by volume, no other hazardous material, and greater than 50% water. Are we correct that our solution does meet the provisions in §173.150(e) and is not subject to HMR when transported by all modes? However, transportation by aircraft or vessel is not authorized except where other means of transportation is impractical.

Is my understanding correct? Your written response is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,



Jack Wagner
Director, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs