



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

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

SEP 20 2007

Mr. Ronald J. Stokes  
ExxonMobil Chemical Company  
Intermediates, Synthetics Product Stewardship  
P.O. Box 3140  
Edison, New Jersey 08818

Ref. No. 06-0280

Dear Mr. Stokes:

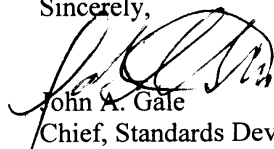
This responds to your December 20, 2006 letter requesting clarification on the retesting and recertification requirements for portable tanks under §180.605 of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) and Special Permit DOT-SP-11167.

According to your letter, you use portable tanks exclusively for the transport of a Pyrophoric solid, inorganic, n.o.s., UN 3200, PGI catalyst. Specifically, you ask: 1) what qualifications a testing facility and/or tester must have; 2) if there is an option between air and hydrostatic testing under §180.605(h); and, 3) whether PHMSA has a list of qualified testing facilities.

Section 180.605 authorizes the use of either air or hydrostatic testing for recertification of DOT specification portable tanks. Special Permit DOT- SP-11167 authorizes the use of non-DOT specification portable tanks under certain conditions. In accordance with the terms of the special permit, a new tank must be hydrostatically pressure tested for one hour and hydrostatically retested and reinspected at least once every five years thereafter, as specified in §180.605 for DOT Specification 51 portable tanks at the original qualification test gauge pressure specified in Special Permit DOT-SP-11167, for a period of 15 minutes. There is no requirement in §180.605 for tests to be performed by an approved third party testing agency. The tank owner or user may have the tank inspected and tested by any qualified tester. Qualified testers are required to be trained in accordance with the HMR. If the tank is an ASME tank, the inspection and testing must be performed by a qualified ASME tester.

I hope this answers your inquiry.

Sincerely,



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



060280

180.605

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Boothe  
§180.605  
Testing of Portable Tanks  
06-0280

**ExxonMobil**  
Chemical

December 20, 2006

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety  
Administration (PHH-10)  
400 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Attn: Mr. Edward T. Mazzullo, Director  
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards

Ref: DOT SP-11167  
49 CFR §180.605

Dear Mr. Mazzullo:

Pursuant to the stated references I submit the following for your consideration and response. We currently have several portable tanks constructed and tested by Eco-Pak (now Columbiana Boiler Company, LLC) and allowed for hazmat transport under a special permit. We use these tanks exclusively for the transport of a Pyrophoric solid, inorganic, n.o.s. UN3200 PGI catalyst. Pursuant to DOT SP-11167 paragraph 7b and the requirements at §180.605 five year testing and recertification must be completed for each tank which gives rise to the following questions.

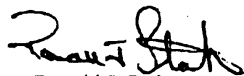
1. Pursuant to the examination & test requirements in paragraphs (g) and (h) of §180.605; what qualifications, if any, must a testing facility and/or tester have?
2. Pursuant to paragraph (h) of §180.605 is there an option between air and hydrostatic testing? If not, which one must be performed?
3. If the tanks must be hydrostatically tested, does PHMSA have a list of qualified testing facilities?

Since the retest due date is close, a prompt response would be appreciated.

Should there be any questions concerning this request, I may be contacted at the above address or contact numbers shown below.

Thanks for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,



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