



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

JAN 31 2007

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

Mr. Michael Ritchie
Hazardous Materials Specialist
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard
Mail Stop 460, Room 121
St. Paul, MN 55155

Ref. No. 06-0203

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

This is in response to your August 29, 2006 letter requesting clarification of the marking requirements for a compartmented cargo tank under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). You state that most bulk transport companies in your region display identification numbers on placards and do not utilize orange panels or white square-on-point configurations. Therefore, this letter addresses the display of identification numbers on hazard warning placards.

Your questions pertain to a cargo tank equipped with four compartments. Compartment #1 contains "Gasoline, UN1203"; compartment #2 contains "Diesel fuel, NA1993"; compartment #3 contains "Denatured alcohol, NA1987"; and compartment #4 contains "Gasoline, UN1203". Provided no exceptions are utilized, a compartmented cargo tank containing multiple Class 3 materials must be marked with the appropriate identification number for each different hazardous material on both sides and both ends in accordance with § 172.332. In this case, a Class 3 placard displaying UN number 1203, a Class 3 placard displaying NA number 1993, and a Class 3 placard displaying NA number 1987 must appear on both sides and both ends of the cargo tank. The placards displaying identification numbers do not have to appear in any particular order.

Q1. May the compartmented cargo tank utilize the exceptions provided in both §§ 172.336(c)(1) and 172.336(c)(4)? Under this scenario, the compartmented cargo tank would display on each side a single Class 3 placard with UN number 1203 to identify the contents of compartments #1 and #2; a single Class 3 placard with NA number 1987 to identify the contents of compartment #3; and a single Class 3 placard displaying UN number 1203 to identify the contents of compartment #4. A single Class 3 placard without identification numbers would be displayed on the front and the rear of the cargo tank

A1. The answer is yes. In accordance with § 172.336(c)(1), a compartmented cargo tank containing hazardous materials with different identification numbers is excepted from the requirement to display identification numbers on the front and rear (i.e., ends) of



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173.336(c)

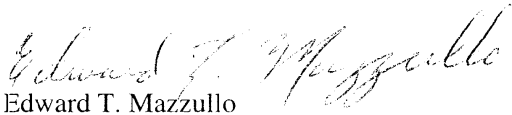
the cargo tank when the identification numbers are displayed on the sides of the tank in the same sequence as the compartments containing the materials they identify. Moreover, in accordance with § 172.336(c)(4), identification numbers are not required for each of the different petroleum distillate fuels in a compartmented cargo tank if the identification number for the liquid petroleum distillate fuel having the lowest flash point is displayed.

Q2. May the compartmented cargo tank utilize the exception provided in § 172.336(c)(4)? Under this scenario, the cargo tank would display on each side one Class 3 placard with UN number 1203 and one Class 3 placard with NA number 1987.

A2. Again, the answer is yes. In accordance with § 172.336(c)(4), identification numbers are not required for each of the different petroleum distillate fuels in a compartmented cargo tank if the identification number for the petroleum distillate fuel with the lowest flash point is displayed. However, because the markings are not displayed on the sides of the cargo tank in the same sequence as the compartments containing the materials they identify, additional hazard warning placards with identification numbers representing each hazardous material must be displayed on the ends of the cargo tank.

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact us if you require additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Edward T. Mazzullo
Director, Office of Hazardous
Materials Standards



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations

395 John Ireland Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

Learly
§ 173.336
Markings
06-0203

August 29, 2006

United States Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards
Mr. Edward Mazzullo
PHH-10
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Required Identification Number Marking on Cargo Tanks

Dear Mr. Mazzullo,

I have received your letter, Ref. No. 01-0082R, dated May 1, 2006, concerning the use of the marking exception for petroleum distillate fuels in 49 CFR 172.336 when transporting alcohol and alcohol blends in a compartment of a cargo tank carrying petroleum fuels. Please clarify which markings are required on the sides of a multi-compartment cargo tank carrying petroleum fuels and alcohol in different compartments at the same time.

Correct and consistent ID number markings on cargo tanks are critical issues for emergency responders. My office will be meeting with State Emergency Response Teams and both the petroleum and alcohol industries soon, and a prompt response would be appreciated.

49 CFR 172.336 (c) (1) states that ID numbers are not required on the ends of a unit having more than one compartment if hazardous materials having different ID numbers are carried. In this circumstance, the ID numbers shall be displayed on the sides of the tank in the same sequence as the compartments containing the materials they identify.

When transporting petroleum fuels and hazardous materials not eligible for the petroleum distillate fuel marking exception in different compartments, what marking is required? If two consecutive compartments contain materials eligible for the petroleum fuels exceptions in § 172.336 (c) (4) and (5), may they be represented by one displayed ID number, or must each compartment be identified with a separate ID numbers on the sides in sequence? For example:

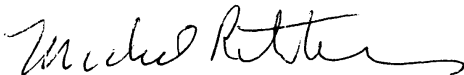
Compartment #1 Gasoline UN1203, compartment #2 Diesel Fuel NA 1993, compartment #3 denatured alcohol NA1987, compartment #4 gasoline UN1203.

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In our region, and in these industries, most companies display ID numbers on placards and do not use orange panels or white-square on point devices. The regulation, and interpretations I have reviewed, make it clear that all four ID numbers may be displayed on each side, but what is required? May the sides of this tank show, in sequence, a Class 3 placard displaying ID # 1203 to cover compartments 1 and 2, a Class 3 placard displaying ID number 1987 for compartment #3, and a third placard displaying ID #1203 for the fourth compartment? Is it legal to display on the sides only one Class 3 placard displaying 1203 and one Class 3 placard with 1987? Are there any other allowable options?

If you have any questions you can reach me at (651) 215-6326 or by e-mail at Michael.Ritchie@dot.state.mn.us.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Ritchie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Ritchie
Hazardous Materials Specialist
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations
395 John Ireland Boulevard
Mail Stop 460, Room 121
St. Paul, MN 55155