



U.S. Department
of Transportation

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

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

JAN 24 2006

Ref. No.: 06-0004

TSgt. Jesse Rubalcaba
Command Section Evaluator
Department of the Air Force
20 AF/LGMM
6610 Headquarters Drive
F.E. Warren AFB, WY 82005-3943

Dear TSgt. Rubalcaba

This is in response to your letter requesting clarification of the placarding requirements under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). Specifically, you ask if the exception from placarding in § 172.504(c), for less than 454 kg (1001 pounds) aggregate gross weight of hazardous materials covered by Table 2 of § 172.504(e), applies to the Division 2.2 material in cylinders. You indicate that the cylinders are loaded on a single transport vehicle and weigh approximately 4,800 pounds.

The placarding exception in § 172.504(c) applies to the aggregate gross weight of all non-bulk packagings on a single transport vehicle that are covered by Table 2 of § 172.504(e) and do not fall under the provisions of § 172.505. As defined in § 171.8, the phrase "gross weight" is the weight of a packaging plus the weight of its contents.

In your scenario, the aggregate gross weight is equivalent to the aggregate weight of all cylinders and the Division 2.2 material they contain. Therefore, given that the aggregate gross weight of your cylinders is approximately 4,800 pounds, the transport vehicle must be placarded.

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

Sincerely,


John A. Gale

Chief, Standards Development
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



060004

172.504



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE (AFSPC)

Supple
3172.504
Placarding
06-2004
16 Dec 05

TO: Office of Hazardous Material Standards,
Research and Special Programs Administration
DHM-10, U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20590-001


FROM: 20 AF/LGMM
6610 Headquarters Drive
F. E. Warren AFB WY 82005-3943

SUBJECT: Request interpretation of 49 CFR 172.504 General Placard Requirements

1. A request of interpretation is needed for the following DOT placarding requirements, 49 CFR 172, Subpart F., 172.504, (c). Step (c) states, " placards are not required on—(1) A transport vehicles or freight container which contains less than 454 kg (1001 pounds) aggregate gross weight of hazardous materials covered by table 2 of paragraph (e) of this section."
2. The transported vehicle in question is a 16 cylinder 4500 PSI cascade breathable bottled system weighing approximately 4800 lbs. This system is made up of 16 DOT bottles (P/N AC444), which are connected to each other using inter-connecting whips. The air bottles are attached horizontally to an approved DOT storage rack using zinc plated steel cylinder retaining brackets. The entire unit is installed on an open flat bed trailer.
3. When in transport, all air bottles are closed and the remainder of the system is bled. The unit is covered using a black canvas tarp which is used to protect the system from the elements. With the cover installed, the hazard is not identifiable to the public or first responders.
4. Different interpretations exist of whether the unit should be placarded. In one view, due to the definition of gross weight, the bottle cylinder weight plus the content in the bottle accounts for the 1001 pound weight requirements, and it would require placarding. In a second view, only the content in the bottle should account for the 1001 pound requirements for placarding, and the unit would not require placards. Does this unit require placards or not?

5. References used from 49 CFR:

- a. Section 172.101, Hazardous Material Table, Compressed Air, classifying it as a 2.2 nonflammable gas.
 - b. Section 172.504, General placard requirements, section c: "Exception for less than... placards are not required on—(1) A transport vehicles or freight container which contains less than 454 kg (1001 pounds) aggregate gross weight of hazardous materials covered by table 2 of paragraph (e) of this section."
 - c. Section 171.8, Definitions and abbreviations: "Gross weight or gross mass means the weight of the packaging plus the weight of its contents."
"Freight container means a reusable container having a volume of 64 cubic feet or more, designed and constructed to permit being lifted with its contents intact and intended primarily for containment of packages (in unit form) during transportation."
6. Any questions regarding this letter can be directed to TSgt Jesse Rubalcaba, 20 AF/LGMM, 307-773-5636, fax 307-773-5419. Thanks for your assistance.


JESSE RUBALCABA, TSgt, USAF
Command Section Evaluator