



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Research and  
Special Programs  
Administration**

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

AUG 16 2001

Mr. Dana Probasco  
Safety Department  
R+L Carriers  
600 Gilliam Rd.  
Wilmington, OH 41577

Ref. No. 01-0137

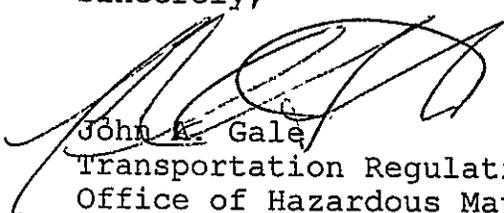
Dear Mr. Probasco:

This is in response to your May 29, 2001 letter regarding the appropriate use of the letters "RQ" on a shipping paper under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). In your scenario, a shipper placed the reportable quantity threshold (i.e., "RQ = 476 pounds") following the shipping description. However, the material did not equal or exceed the RQ in one package. Specifically you asked whether this is an appropriate use of the letters "RQ".

The answer is no. The letters "RQ" may only be entered on the shipping paper if a material meets the definition of a hazardous substance under § 171.8. In your situation, the material is not a hazardous substance, thus it is not appropriate to enter the letters "RQ" on the shipping paper.

I hope this satisfies your request.

Sincerely,



John K. Gale

Transportation Regulations Specialist  
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



BAH  
§ 172.203  
Shipping Papers  
01-0137

Attention: Haz-Mat Info Center (Mike Stevens)  
From: Dana Probasco (Haz-Mat Specialist) Safety Department  
600 Gillam Rd.  
Wilmington Oh, 45177  
Phone: (937) 382 - 1494 (XT 1169)  
Fax: (937) 382 - 2677  
Date: 05/29/01  
Re: RQ on shipping paper.

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a copy of the B.O.L. that shows the letters RQ on the shipping paper.

My question is:

If a Hazardous Substance is in a single package but the Hazardous Substance is not enough weight to meet the criteria of the Reportable Quantity can a shipper still put the letters RQ on the shipping paper?

The shipper for this shipping paper is saying that they are not identifying the material as a Reportable Quantity. They are simply listing the total amount of the RQ included in all of the packages combined.

Thank you for any information you can provide.

Dana Probasco

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