



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Research and  
Special Programs  
Administration**

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

OCT 15 2001

Mr. Larry J. Talley  
2499 Countrywood Parkway  
Cordova, TN 38018

Ref. No. 01-0216

Dear Mr. Talley:

This responds to your letter dated August 7, 2001, regarding the transportation of black powder under the U.S. Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) and the International Civil Aviation Organization's Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (ICAO Technical Instructions). Specifically, you ask if there are any exceptions that would allow for the domestic or international transportation of black powder by aircraft.

The answer is no. The air transportation of black powder is forbidden both domestically under the HMR and internationally under the ICAO Technical Instructions. Putting the black powder into either a shotgun case or brass rifle case, as you describe in your letter, and carrying it onto an aircraft, would be a willful violation of the regulations.

I trust this satisfies your inquiry. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Edward T. Mazzuolo  
Director  
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



010216

Larry J. Talley  
2499 Countrywood Parkway  
Cordova, TN 38018

Edward T. Mazzullo  
Directors Office of Hazardous Materials Standards  
US DOT / RSPA (DHM 10)  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington DC 20590-0001

Sir;

A few months ago, I went to South Africa as a team member of the USA International Muzzle Loading Team.

During the preparation for this trip, a long and heated discussion came up between the members about the transportation of black powder that this type of rifle use and whether we could transport black powder on a commercial airliner in some manner or way.

I was and still am of the opinion that this can not be done in any legal manner or way. Many shooters, are of the opinion, that by putting the black powder in either a shotgun empty case and crimping it over so as to appear as normal smokeless loaded shotgun ammunition or by putting the black powder in a normal empty brass rifle case and placing a bullet in the end to be removed upon arrival, circumvents the prohibition of carriage of black powder on a commercial airliner.

After an extensive Internet search, I do not believe that this is in anyway a legal thing to do. After calling the DOT, I was given your name as the one who would know the correct answer to this question of transportation of black powder on commercial aircraft and if it could be done, what someone would have to do to comply with all DOT and FAA regulations to do so.

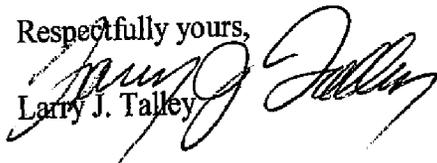
Many heated discussions on various Internet sites have been done saying that this is legal and how to go about it when going hunting or to a rifle match.

Your clarification of this matter will receive a very wide distribution in many shooting publications and various web sites, by me, in an attempt to educate the shooting public. As to what the legalities of transporting black powder by air travel, in both the USA and Internationally by scheduled commercial airline companies.

Thank you for your time and response to my questions.

Respectfully yours,

Larry J. Talley



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Applicability  
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