



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

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

JUL 11 2006

Ms. Kristen Taddonio
2450 Virginia Avenue, N. W.
Apartment E-111
Washington, D. C. 20037

Ref. No.: 06-0097

Dear Ms. Taddonio:

This responds to your letter dated April 13, 2006, regarding clarification of the requirements in the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) as they apply to the shipment of an air conditioning system accumulator installed in a motor vehicle. In a subsequent phone conversation with a member of my staff, you said the air conditioning system contained a refrigerant gas accumulator built into the mechanics of an automobile. Your questions are paraphrased and answered as follows:

- Q1. Under §173.306(f)(1), accumulators installed in motor vehicles and fabricated with a burst pressure of not less than five (5) times their charged pressure at 70°F., when shipped, are not subject to the HMR. What requirements apply to an air conditioning system accumulator installed in a motor vehicle if it is only fabricated to withstand 4.5 times the charged pressure at 70°F?
- A1. In accordance with §173.306(f)(5), accumulators not conforming to the provisions of paragraphs (f)(1) through (f)(4) of this section, (e.g., an accumulator installed in a motor vehicle and fabricated to withstand only 4.5 times the charged pressure) may be shipped only under the terms of an approval issued by the Associate Administrator of the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety.

Section 173.220(e) of the HMR specifies that items of equipment containing a hazardous material, such as a compressed gas accumulator, that is an integral component of a motor vehicle and necessary for the operation of the vehicle and securely installed in the motor vehicle, are not subject to the HMR. Based on the information you provided, the air conditioning system containing a refrigerant gas accumulator built into the mechanics of the motor vehicle is not subject to the HMR.



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173.306(f)(5)
173.220(e)

Q2. How does one apply for an approval?

A2. You may apply for an approval in accordance with the requirements specified in §107.705.

I hope this information is helpful. If we can be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,



John A. Gale

Chief, Standards Development
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards

2450 Virginia Avenue Northwest
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Washington, D.C. 20037

April 13, 2006

U.S. Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration
Office of Hazardous Materials Safety
400 7th St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to request clarification regarding 49 CFR 173.306 (f) (1). This regulation states that "Accumulators installed in motor vehicles...fabricated with a burst pressure of not less than five times their charged pressure at 70 degrees F, when shipped, are not subject to the requirements of this subchapter." My questions are as follows:

1. What requirements apply to the air conditioning system's accumulator if it is only fabricated to withstand 4.5 times the charged pressure at 70 degrees?
2. How can one apply for an exemption or exception?

Your timely response is appreciated.

Thank you,



Kristen Taddonio

Engrum
§ 173.306(f)(1)
§ 173.220(e)
Cylinders
06-0097