



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

DEC 03 2012

Ms. L'Gena Prevatt  
Technical Consultant  
Currie Associates, Inc.  
10 Hunter Brook Lane  
Queensbury, NY 12804

Ref. No.: 12-0229

Dear Ms. Prevatt:

This responds to your October 1, 2012 letter requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) applicable to the closure instruction requirements in § 178.2(c)(1)(i)(B). Specifically you ask if the closure instructions that you included with your request meet the requirements of § 178.2(c)(1)(i)(B).

In accordance with § 178.2(c)(1)(i)(B) closure instructions must provide a consistent and repeatable means of closure necessary to ensure the packaging is closed in the same manner as it was tested. The HMR do not provide specific examples of acceptable closure processes because these methods will vary depending on the type of packaging used. Methods that provide the packaging assembler with instructions that are sufficient to prepare the packaging in the same manner as it was prepared prior to successfully passing the design qualification testing required in subpart M of part 178 would be considered acceptable. It is the opinion of this office that the terminology and level of detail provided in the packaging instructions that you provided are vague and would not provide a consistent and repeatable result that ensures the packaging is closed in the same manner as it was tested.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Robert Benedict  
Chief, Standards Development Branch  
Standards and Rulemaking Division



**CURRIE ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
THE GLOBAL COMPLIANCE PROFESSIONALS

Winter  
§178.2(c)(B)  
Applicability  
12-0229

October 1, 2012

Standards and Rulemaking Division,  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
Attn: PHH-10  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Currie Associates, Inc. hereby submits a request for interpretation of §178.2(c)(B), specifically compliance with closure instructions for a 4G packaging.

Currie Associates is a strong team of hazardous materials consulting experts to help manufacturers, shippers, distributors, carriers, freight forwarders, trainers, packaging manufacturers and others associated with the hazardous materials transportation industry. In addition to promoting regulatory compliance and safety in hazardous materials transportation, Currie Associates assists our clients in evaluating the practicality and efficacy of laws, rules and regulations for the safe transportation and distribution of hazardous materials.

§178.2(c)(1)(i)(B) requires the manufacturer and subsequent distributors of the packaging to provide information specifying the types of components needed to ensure the packaging meets the performance tests and any procedures to be followed to effectively assemble and close the packaging. The closure instructions must be consistent and repeatable.

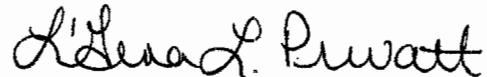
A Currie client received the attached samples of closure instructions for 4G packagings from a packaging manufacture and do not believe they are compliant with the HMR. The client does not believe the referenced documents meet the requirements of §178.2(c) for consistent and repeatable procedures. After several attempts to contact the manufacturer for more detailed closure instructions and alternative documentation on the 4G packaging it was determined the manufacturer believes the attached closure instructions are compliant.

The HMR does not provide specific details on the layout or structure of closure instructions but does indicate that the information must include any procedures to be followed to effectively assemble and close the packaging for the purpose of preventing leakage in transportation. Additionally, the closure instructions must be consistent and repeatable to ensure the packaging is closed in the same manner as it was tested.

Currie Associates would like PHMSA to confirm that the attached closure instructions do not meet the requirements of §178.2(c)(i)(B). In other words, Currie Associates would like PHMSA to confirm the manufacturer must provide more detailed information on the specific procedures to close a 4G packaging in the same manner as it was tested.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L'Gena L. Prevatt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L'".

L'Gena Prevatt  
Technical Consultant

**CLOSURE INSTRUCTIONS**

PRODUCT PART# OR SKU# SX0694-1  
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION SODIUM PERCHLORATE 500G  
UN CERT INFORMATION 4G/X5.71/S/yr/USA  
EMD SPEC PKG (Yes or No) YES  
CARTON PART# SS211856  
CARTON DESCRIPTION 4x350ml & 750ml Ctn  
TOP FLAP CLOSING  
TYPE Poly 3M #371 Clear Tape  
WIDTH 2" Clear Tape  
OVERLAP (Min.) 2" Minimum  
PATTERN Center Seam  
BOTTOM FLAP CLOSING  
TYPE Poly 3M #371 Clear Tape  
WIDTH 2" Clear Tape  
OVERLAP (Min.) 2" Minimum  
PATTERN Center Seam  
VOID FILL (IF REQUIRED) 0  
INNER CONTAINER PART# SS7515090752  
INNER CONTAINER DESCRIPT. 750ML WM PE BOTTLE SQUARE WHITE S60  
CLOSURE PART# SS302001-M  
DESCRIPTION SCREW CAP S 60 7/53531/0605, 400 X  
MATERIAL HDPE  
COLOR Gray  
LINER Linerless  
SUPPLIER/MFG.  
TORQUE 29-38 in. lb. removal  
NOTE None

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THESE CLOSURE INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED WHEN REGULATIONS  
PERMIT THE USE OF LIMITED QUANTITY  
GROUND & AIR PROVIIONS EXCEPTIONS

**CLOSURE INSTRUCTIONS**



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PRODUCT PART# OR SKU# SX0205-5  
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION SILVER NITRATE ACS 125GM

UN CERT INFORMATION 4GVIX4IS/yr/USA

EMD SPEC PKG (Yes or No) NO  
CARTON PART# 93134P  
CARTON DESCRIPTION SHIPPER-4GV FOR 32OZ OR

TOP FLAP CLOSING  
TYPE Poly 3M #375 Clear Tape  
WIDTH 2" Clear Tape  
OVERLAP (Min.) 3" Minimum  
PATTERN Center Seam

BOTTOM FLAP CLOSING  
TYPE Poly 3M #375 Clear Tape  
WIDTH 2" Clear Tape  
OVERLAP (Min.) 3" Minimum  
PATTERN Center Seam

VOID FILL (IF REQUIRED) 0

INNER CONTAINER PART# Vendor Bottle  
INNER CONTAINER DESCRIPT. Vendor Bottle

CLOSURE PART# Vendor Cap  
DESCRIPTION Vendor Cap  
MATERIAL Vendor  
COLOR Vendor  
LINER Vendor  
SUPPLIER/MFG. Vendor  
TORQUE Vendor  
NOTE Place bottle & pad inside bag. Seal with tie.

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PRODUCT PART# OR SKU# 8.18393.0005  
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION 4-METHYLPYRIMIDINE FOR SYNTHESIS

UN CERT INFORMATION UN4G/X15/S [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SPEC PKG (Yes or No) Yes  
CARTON PART# 7777144185 7777144185 0  
CARTON DESCRIPTION Fiberboard Box Lid PN - when required  
Foam Parts# (when req.) 7575711050 7575711050

TOP FLAP CLOSING 7.65660.0007 7.65660.0800 7.65660.0801  
Self adhesive tape -  
BOPP (Biaxial  
TYPE stretched  
polypropylene carrier Water activated Water activated  
film) adhesive kraft paper adhesive kraft paper  
WIDTH 62 mm 80 mm 80 mm  
OVERLAP (Min.) 80 mm 80 mm 80 mm  
PATTERN Glassfiber reinforced Glassfiber reinforced Glassfiber reinforced  
Prints Blue, [REDACTED] Prints Blue, [REDACTED]  
PRINT [REDACTED] none [REDACTED]

BOTTOM FLAP CLOSING 7.65660.0007 7.65660.0800 7.65660.0801  
Self adhesive tape -  
BOPP (Biaxial  
TYPE stretched  
polypropylene carrier Water activated Water activated  
film) adhesive kraft paper adhesive kraft paper  
WIDTH 62 mm 80 mm 80 mm  
OVERLAP (Min.) 80 mm 80 mm 80 mm  
PATTERN Glassfiber reinforced Glassfiber reinforced Glassfiber reinforced  
Prints Blue, [REDACTED] Prints Blue, [REDACTED]  
PRINT [REDACTED] none [REDACTED]

VOID FILL (IF REQUIRED) Kraft Paper Kraft Paper Kraft Paper

INNER CONTAINER PART# 7.28297.1048  
INNER CONTAINER DESCRIP.

THESE CLOSURE INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED WHEN REGULATIONS  
PERMIT THE USE OF LIMITED QUANTITY  
GROUND & AIR PROVIIONS EXCEPTIONS