



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

DEC 15 2016

Ms. Julie Brown
Eastman Chemical Company
Global Logistics
Principal Distribution Safety Representative
200 S. Wilcox Drive
Kingsport, TN 37662-5280

Reference No. 16-0106

Dear Ms. Brown:

This letter is in response to your June 16, 2016, email requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) applicable to background marks, such as stitching, on a preprinted marking, label, or placard. You include in your email photographs showing a white bag that has conductive threading throughout, including within a preprinted Class 9 placard and marine pollutant marking. Specifically, you ask whether visible stitching on a Class 9 placard or label prescribed in §§ 172.560(b) and 172.446(b), respectively, and a marine pollutant marking prescribed in § 172.322(e), is permitted under the HMR.

The answer is yes. In accordance with § 172.322(e)(2), for the marine pollutant marking, the symbol and border must be black on a white or suitable contrasting background. For labels and placards, preprinting is authorized provided the color tolerances in Part 172, Appendix A, Table 3 are met (see § 172.407(d)(4)(i)(B) and § 172.519(d)(3)). Therefore, the HMR permit threading to show through the white background of a marking, label, or placard, as pictured on the preprinted bags provided with your letter.

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

T. Glenn Foster
Chief, Regulatory Review and Reinvention Branch
Standards and Rulemaking Division

Goodall, Shante CTR (PHMSA)

Stevens
172.560(b)
Class 9 Placard
16-0106

From: Rivera, Jordan CTR (PHMSA)
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 3:50 PM
To: Hazmat Interps
Subject: FW: Requesting a formal interpretation

Hi Shante/Alice,

Please submit this as an interpretation letter. Ms. Brown spoke with Jodi.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Jordan

From: Brown, Julie [<mailto:jvbrown@eastman.com>]
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2016 1:51 PM
To: INFOCNTR (PHMSA)
Cc: Slaughter, Shannon C
Subject: Requesting a formal interpretation

I would like to request a formal interpretation on whether or not the background color of this pictured class 9 placard and marine pollutant mark (partial picture) meet 49CFR back ground colors. The bag is white; however, has conductive threading throughout. We are wondering if the threading interferes with the requirement that the background "must be white for class 9 placards and labels stated in 172.560(b) and 172.446(b) and for background of a marine pollutant marking which "must be white or suitable contrasting background" in 49CFR 172.322 (e).



Julie Brown
Eastman Chemical Company
Global Logistics
Principal Distribution Safety Representative
200 S. Wilcox Drive
Kingsport, TN 37662-5280
423-229-6420 phone
423-361-6420 mobile
jvbrown@eastman.com

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