



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration

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

APR 21 2010

Ms. Vicki H. Weightman  
Manager, Technical Services and Regulatory Affairs  
INDSPEC Chemical Corporation  
1010 William Pitt Way  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Ref. No. 09-0209

Dear Ms. Weightman:

This responds to your September 2, 2009 letter requesting clarification of requirements for loading tank cars with hazardous materials under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). Specifically, you ask whether the tank car loading operation must be attended.

Section 173.31 provides general requirements for transporting hazardous materials in tank cars, including tank car loading and unloading requirements. Additional requirements for loading and handling tank cars are in § 174.55. Section 174.67 establishes requirements for transloading tank cars – that is, for transferring hazardous materials from one tank car to another tank car or from a tank car to a cargo tank motor vehicle or *vice versa*. Transloading operations must be attended in accordance with § 174.67(i); however, the HMR do not include specific requirements for attending rail tank car loading operations.

We have initiated a rulemaking to consider whether additional measures are necessary to reduce the risks associated with loading and unloading of bulk packagings containing hazardous materials, including rail tank cars. We plan to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking in 2010.

I hope this answers your inquiry. If you need further assistance, do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Betts  
Chief, Standards Development  
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



**INDSPEC Chemical Corporation**

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Boothe  
§ 174.67 (i)  
§ 177.834 (i)  
Loading & Unloading  
09-0209

September 2, 2009

Mr. Edward T. Mazzullo  
Director, Office of Hazardous  
Material Standards  
US DOT/PHMSA (PHH-10)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
East Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Mazzullo,

INDSPEC Chemical Corporation respectfully requests your assistance in the identification of the attendance requirements for the loading of tank cars with hazardous materials in the Code of Federal Regulations. The requirements for the tank car unloading can be found in 49CFR 174.67(i). Likewise loading and unloading attendance requirements for tank trucks can be found in 49CFR 177.834(i).

Your assistance is appreciated. I can be reached at 412-826-3669 with any questions.

Could you also look into an earlier request with regard to Specification Packaging as I have not received a response. The original request is enclosed.

Sincerely,

INDSPEC Chemical Corporation

Vicki H. Weightman  
Manager, Technical Services and  
Regulatory Affairs

VHW/pb

Enclosure