

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

April 24, 2024

William Dworsky President Consolidated Container Company 109 27th Ave NE Minneapolis, MN 55418

Reference No. 23-0098

Dear Mr. Dworsky:

This letter is in response to your November 2, 2023, email requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) applicable to the attachment of "label plates" on repaired and/or remanufactured Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs). In your email, you provide a picture of a United Nations (UN) 31HA1 composite IBC with a "label plate" screwed into the steel outer packaging surrounding the plastic inner receptacle. It is your understanding that when a new "label plate" is installed on an IBC, it should be done in a manner that does not affect the integrity of the package.

Your understanding is correct. While the HMR do not specifically state that "label plates"—or any other hazard communication—cannot be screwed into the steel outer packaging surrounding the plastic inner receptacle of a composite IBC, § 173.28(a) states that "before reuse, each packaging must be inspected and may not be reused unless free from incompatible residue, rupture, or other *damage which reduces its structural integrity*."

Based solely on the picture provided in your email, it is not possible to determine whether the screws in the steel outer packaging have affected the integrity of the composite IBC. However, if you have evidence that the screws have affected the integrity of the composite IBC, this would not be an acceptable method for attaching "label plates." Please note that this letter only addresses the effect that screwing the "label plate" into the outer cage has on the integrity of the composite IBC pictured in your email and does not address the marking requirements associated with this composite IBC.

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

Sincerely,

L. C.

Steven Andrews Acting Chief, Regulatory Review and Reinvention Branch Standards and Rulemaking Division

Larson

23-0098



Hi Alice,

Please see the below interpretation request.

Let me know if you need anything.

Regards,

-Breanna

From: William Dworsky <wdworsky@containerexperts.com> Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 10:10 AM To: PHMSA HM InfoCenter <PHMSAHMInfoCenter@dot.gov> Subject: Interpretation Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

To whom this may concern,

We are seeking an interpretation on the proper reattachment of plaquard plates on Repaired/Remanufactured IBC's.

As you can see in the below picture, this company applied a new label plate using screws into the cage.

We are of the understanding that when installing a new label plate, its done in a manner that doesn't change the integrirty of the orginal package (IE. Zip ties or rebending the plate around the bars).

Looking forward to your intrepretation of this question.

Respectfully,

William Dworsky President



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