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Transportation/Hazardous Materials: Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Letter Addressing Shipping Description of Diesel Fuel

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The United States Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration ("PHMSA") responded in a February 8th letter to a Florida Highway Patrol ("FHP") request for:

... clarification pertaining to the shipping description of diesel fuel reclassified as a "combustible liquid" that under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180).

The FHP noted that § 172.202(a)(3)(ii) of the Hazardous Materials Regulations states that hazard class need not be included for the entry combustible liquid "Cl, n.o.s.". FHP also listed in its letter two proper shipping descriptions for diesel fuel reclassified as combustible liquid as:

1. NA 1993, Diesel Fuel, Combustible liquid, PG III
2. NA 1993, Combustible Liquid n.o.s. (diesel fuel) Combustible liquid, PG III

FHP asked if the shipping description "NA 1993, Combustible liquid n.o.s." must be used when taking the exception in § 172.202(a)(3)(ii). It also asked which of the above shipping descriptions is correct.

PHMSA stated that the answer to the first question is yes. The agency noted:

As specified in §172.202(a)(3)(ii) of the HMR, the hazard class need not be included for the specific entry "Combustible liquid, n.o.s."

The agency also stated that the exception is specific only to the "combustible liquid n.o.s." shipping description. As a result, "NA 1993, Combustible liquid n.o.s., PG III" was deemed the shipping description.

As to the second question, PHMSA noted that shipping description number two would be appropriate for diesel fuel reclassified as combustible liquid.

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