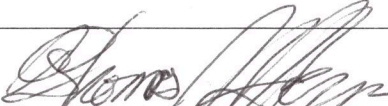


HAZARDOUS MATERIALS GUIDANCE

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Approved: Thomas J. Herrmann Director, Office of Technical Oversight	

Summary:

This guidance document explains the meaning of “sift-proof packaging” and the practical effect of the term in the context of rail transportation.

Discussion:

The Hazardous Materials Regulations define the term “sift-proof packaging” as “packaging impermeable to dry contents, including fine solid material produced during transportation.” *See* Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations § 171.8. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has interpreted this definition as a performance requirement that does not require the railcar itself to be sift-proof, provided the product, essentially any dry powdery substance, is fully contained. Specifically, PHMSA has stated that a rail car may be rendered sift-proof in any manner that satisfies the performance requirement either by utilizing structural features (e.g., internal gaskets or liners) or non-structural features (e.g., inner packagings).