

9 Jan 1998

From: Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston
To: Distribution

Subj: COTP POLICY ON PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR AMMONIUM NITRATE DIVISION
5.1 (OXIDIZER)

This policy letter supersedes policy letter 16610/176.415 dated 13 Nov 1997. The Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston requires the following provisions be followed throughout the duration of transfer or handling of Ammonium Nitrate division 5.1 (oxidizer):

1. 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 176.41S(c) (4) requires the vessel maintain its immediate ability to move either through its own power or via an attending towing vessel. Both must have an unrestricted passage to open water and must be moored bow to seaward. Ships are required to have two wire towing hawsers, equipped with an eye splice, lowered to the water's edge. The hawsers shall be placed at the bow and stern.
2. 49 CFR 176.41S(c) (3) requires your facility to conform with the port security and local regulations, and must have an abundance of water readily available for fire fighting. Your facility or the transferring vessel must maintain a minimum of two charged fire hoses capable of attacking a fire from two different directions.
3. The owner and operator of facilities handling these cargos must comply with all requirements under 33 CFR 126.15-16 and any other requirements the COTP or his representative may deem appropriate. You are required to review these regulations and ensure that your facility is in compliance prior to transferring or handling Ammonium Nitrate division 5.1 (oxidizer).

Compliance of these requirements will be conducted during nonscheduled inspections of your transfer operations. If any of these requirements are found not to be in compliance or the specifications of your application change, your permit will void. You must then submit a new application five days in advance of your intended operation. If you have any questions regarding these requirements, please contact the Port Waterways Management Branch at (713) 671-5165.

K. J. Eldridge
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port