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Fire & Rescue Division Hazardous Materials Section

BULLETIN # 12 – R.E. SEL # 9.1.3 (Version 2.0)

ENCAPSULATING SPREADABLE POWDERS – GENERAL SERVICE Suitable For PESTICIDES

Section 9.1 of the Standardized Equipment List (SEL) deals with encapsulating spreadable powders or granulars for spills of about 5 – 10 gallons. Item # 9.1.3 lists *ENCAPSULATING SPREADABLE POWDER – General Purpose (and suitable for Pesticides)*. This is a substance that is commercially available in bags from 5 to 35 pounds, or in plastic pails. This guideline is to emphasize the following points when considering purchase of this product, and to be compliant with the SEL:

1. It should be easily spreadable or pourable from a sack, pail, or scoop.
2. It must be applicable for the absorption of water base liquids (polar solvents) and light hydrocarbon base liquids (non-polar solvents). In other words, it can absorb both at once, or either if spilled separately.
3. It should be of an encapsulation type formulation, which means the absorbed product will not easily leach back out.
4. It must be certified by OSHA 29CFR 1910.119. This certification, or an EPA certification, should be imprinted on the container label. This is your (the user) confirmation that it meets either OSHA or EPA regulations.
5. It must be acceptable for liquid Pesticide spills (polar and non-polar). Specific General Purpose spreadable powders are formulated and manufactured for this use. This assurance also should be imprinted on the container label, and additional information in a users instruction sheet.



6. It must not be of a clay based formulation (diatomaceous earth, kitty litter, etc). Clay based formulations are generally not acceptable by EPA for absorption of Pesticides, in that they can leach back out.

Refer to Bulletin # 2, Source Data Sheet for Haz-Mat Standardized Equipment List, item # 9.1.3 for more information regarding possible sources, suppliers, and products that meet this criteria.

During inspection, if the inspection team cannot verify that a product acquired by the haz-mat team and included in their inventory meets the above criteria, then in all likelihood it will not be accepted.

Emphasis should be to insure it is OSHA – EPA certified, that it is not of a clay base formulation, that it is acceptable for pesticides, and it is encapsulating.

Nominal amount on hand in the inventory should be not less than 5 to 10 lbs in a dispenser box, bag, or pail, suitable for a 5 to 10 gallon spill. Inclusion of a greater quantity is optional and dependent upon the frequency of these spills in the local response area.

