



CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire and Rescue Division
3650 Schriever Ave
Mather, CA. 95655
Phone (916) 845-8711
Night-Weekends: (916) 845-8911
Fax: (916) 845-8396



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Fire & Rescue Division Hazardous Materials Section

BULLETIN # 14– R.E. SEL # 9.1.5 (Version 1.1)

ENCAPSULATING SPREADABLE POWDERS – Specifically For NON-POLAR SOLVENTS

Section 9.1 of the Standardized Equipment List (SEL) deals with encapsulating spreadable powders or granulars for spills of about 5 – 10 gallons. Item # 9.1.5 lists *ENCAPSULATING SPREADABLE POWDER – Non-Polar Solvents*. 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 specifically for the absorption of non-polar solvents (motor fuels, diesel, oils, kerosene, paint thinners, and other hydrocarbon based liquids).
3. It must be of a formulation that rejects water (will not absorb water).
4. It should be of an encapsulation type formulation, which means the absorbed product will not easily leach back out.
4. It must be noted on the package, bag, or pail labeling as being acceptable for hydrocarbon based (non-polar) solvents only.

Refer to Bulletin # 2, Source Data Sheet for Haz-Mat Standardized Equipment List, item # 9.1.5 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 of the proper formulation acceptable for non-polar hydrocarbon liquids absorption, that it be properly labeled by the manufacturer for use for non-polar absorption, and that 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.