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Fire & Rescue Division Hazardous Materials Section

BULLETIN # 13 – R.E. SEL # 9.1.4 (Version 1.1)

ENCAPSULATING SPREADABLE POWDERS – Specifically For FORMALDEHYDE

Section 9.1 of the Standardized Equipment List (SEL) deals with encapsulating spreadable powders or granulars for spills of about 5 – 10 gallons. Item # 9.1.4 lists *ENCAPSULATING SPREADABLE POWDER – Formaldehyde*. 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 Formaldehyde.
3. 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 Formaldehyde.

Refer to Bulletin # 2, Source Data Sheet for Haz-Mat Standardized Equipment List, item # 9.1.4 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 formaldehyde absorption, that it be properly labeled by the manufacturer for use on formaldehyde spills, 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.

