



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

Washington, DC 20226

www.atf.gov

April 29, 2019

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19-818253
555.220
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Ms. Debra S. Satkowiak, President
Institute of Makers of Explosives
1212 New York NW, Suite 650
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Satkowiak:

This is in response to your letter dated April 4, 2019, to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME) asked ATF to clarify a final rule (Separation Distances of Ammonium Nitrate and Blasting Agents from Explosives or Blasting Agents) recently published in the Federal Register (Vol. 84, No. 62, Docket No. ATF 2002R-226F; AG order No. 4418-2019) on April 1, 2019.

As you know, the Fertilizer Institute (TFI) requested that ATF remove reference to their insensitivity test found in footnote (3) in the table of distances at 27 CFR § 555.220 because the test is outdated and they could not ensure its procedures are still valid. ATF, through the aforementioned final rule, removed reference to TFI's insensitivity test and clarified that all ammonium nitrate is subject to the table of distances at § 555.220 with respect to its separation from stores of high explosives and blasting agents.

The IME asked ATF to confirm that the following substances are acceptors subject to the requirements in the table of distances at § 555.220: 1) solid ammonium nitrate (in prill, flake, or granule form); 2) ammonium nitrate solutions containing more than 93 percent ammonium nitrate, and 3) unsensitized ammonium nitrate emulsions and watergels that are generally classified by the U.S. Department of Transportation as UN3375, 5.1 Oxidizer.

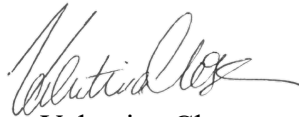
The final rule did not amend the donors or acceptors under the table at § 555.220. ATF has historically held, and continues to hold, that solid ammonium nitrate (in any form) and unsensitized ammonium nitrate emulsions and watergels are ammonium nitrate acceptors subject

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to the requirements in the table at § 555.220. However, ammonium nitrate solutions containing 93 percent or less ammonium nitrate are not acceptors under the table at § 555.220.

We trust the foregoing has been responsive to your request. If you have additional questions, please contact the Explosives Industry Programs Branch at (202) 648-7120.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valentina Close", written in a cursive style.

Valentina Close
Chief, Explosives Industry
Programs Branch

cc: All Directors, Industry Operations
dsatkowiak@ime.org