



Reply to the attention of:

DEP/FAP/LL

MAY 31 2017

Ms. Mary F. Pletcher
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Human Capital and Diversity
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW,
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Pletcher:

Thank you for your October 7, 2016 request to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regarding approval of the U.S. Department of Interior's (DOI's) supplemental safety standard, *Department of Interior Supplemental Standard for Containers and Portable Tanks Transport*, for using aluminum fuel bottles (commonly referred to as Sigg bottles) during wildland firefighting efforts. You indicated that DOI will be adopting the already-approved U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service's supplemental standard for *Containers and Portable Tanks Transport* in accordance with the requirements of 29 CFR 1960.18(a) and (b). Your request also noted that DOI firefighting and other DOI field crews will use Sigg bottles to transport small amounts of chainsaw fuel during wildland firefighting efforts, but will not use the bottles to store fuel.

As a preliminary matter, because these containers don't meet the testing and approval requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation for transporting fuel, OSHA's standard at 29 CFR 1910.106, *Flammable liquids*, does not apply to Sigg-bottle-type containers that DOI crews will use when conducting chainsaw operations. After reviewing the information you submitted, OSHA has not identified any inconsistencies between current OSHA enforcement policy addressing Sigg bottles, the already-approved U.S. Forest Service supplemental standard, and DOI's proposed supplemental standard.

This response constitutes OSHA's review only of the *Department of Interior Supplemental Standard for Containers and Portable Tanks Transport* and OSHA's 29 CFR 1910.106 standard as it relates to wildland firefighting operations, and does not apply to any other document or OSHA standard not delineated within your original correspondence. Also, please be aware that the *Department of Interior Supplemental Standard for Containers and Portable Tanks Transport* applies solely to DOI personnel; the supplemental standard does not apply to crews or personnel from other agencies or organizations. We encourage you to conduct an annual review of this supplemental standard consistent with the self-evaluation requirements at 29 CFR 1960.79, and update this standard as needed.

Thank you for your interest in occupational safety and health. We hope you find this information helpful. OSHA requirements are set by statute, standards, and regulations. Our interpretation letters explain these requirements and how they apply to particular circumstances, but they cannot create additional employer obligations. This letter constitutes OSHA's interpretation only of the requirements discussed. Note that our enforcement guidance may be affected by changes to OSHA rules. Also, from time to time we update our guidance in response to new information. To keep apprised of such developments, you can consult OSHA's website at www.osha.gov. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the Office of Federal Agency Programs at (202) 693-2122.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Galassi", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas Galassi, Director

for Directorate of Enforcement Programs