



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

November 14, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: James Lynch, State Agreement Officer, RIII

THRU: Cynthia D. Pederson, Director *C. Pederson*
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

John R. Madera, Chief *J. R. Madera*
Materials Inspection Branch 1

FROM: Wayne Slawinski, Senior Radiation Specialist
Materials Inspection Branch 1 *Wayne Slawinski*

SUBJECT: INFORMATION OBTAINED DURING INSPECTION AT THE OHMART
CORPORATION REGARDING AMOCO, DECATUR, ALABAMA

On November 6-7, 1996, Region III inspectors responded to a licensee reported incident at The Ohmart Corporation (License No. 34-00639-01), Cincinnati, Ohio, regarding a damaged and leaking cesium-137 source received from Amoco in Decatur, Alabama. According to Ohmart Corporation, Amoco is an Agreement State Licensee specifically licensed by the State of Alabama to possess and use gauging devices.

On November 5, 1996, Ohmart Corporation received two sixty-inch long cesium-137 strip sources (3M Model #4F6P) of nominal two curies each, from Amoco in Decatur, Alabama. The sources were housed in an Ohmart Model SHLM-C source holder, initially distributed by Ohmart to Amoco in July 1970. The sources and holder assembly were returned to Ohmart for repair of the source carrier's roll pin and cabling system.

During the inspection, the inspectors learned from Ohmart representatives that the shipment of the cesium-137 sources from Amoco may not have met all Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements for radioactive materials. Specifically, according to Ohmart representatives, the following shipment related problems were observed:

- (1) No Bill of Lading/Shippers Certification for Radioactive Materials (i.e., Shipping Paper) accompanied the shipment, contrary to 49 CFR 172.200.
- (2) The wood crate (overpack) which contained the source holder and cesium-137 source assembly was not labeled or marked, contrary to 49 CFR 172.403 and 173.25, respectively.

Although Ohmart's Model SHLM-C source holder is a DOT Type A approved package, the source holder itself is not pre-labeled or marked by Ohmart.

- (3) The source holder may not have been properly blocked/braced or otherwise fastened within the overpack to prevent its shifting during transportation, contrary to 49 CFR 177.842. The source holder reportedly had broke-thru the front of the overpack crate, suggesting it slid forward toward the drivers compartment during transit.

This information was discussed with NRC Region II and NMSS staffs and State of Alabama representatives during a telecon on November 12, 1996, and is provided for referral to the State of Alabama for whatever action they deem appropriate.

If you have any questions regarding the information provided, they can be directed to Wayne Slawinski or George Parker.