



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

FEB 25 1998

Attention: Registered users of USA/0507/X and USA/4909/AF

Enclosed are the latest revisions of our Certificates of Competent Authority for the DOT Specification 21PF-1A and 21PF-1B overpacks. Certificate of Competent Authority No. USA/0507/X authorizes the continued use of the overpacks without a valve protection device provided special operating and handling provisions cited in the certificate are completed. Certificate of Competent Authority No. USA/4909/AF incorporates a valve protection device into the package, increases the authorized package weight accordingly, and removes the special operating and handling conditions. Both certificates have deleted authorization for the GE-21PF-1 overpack since the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has deleted their Certificate of Compliance for that overpack.

Please be aware that the 1996 IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials, ST-1, removed the transitional provisions for specification packages approved under the 1967 edition of their regulations. Although specification packages transported by special arrangements remain a viable option, the IAEA clearly intends that all transport packages be performance tested. In light of this fact and the great deal of time and effort spent to design, test, and certify a valve protection device which allows the DOT Specification Overpacks to be certified as performance oriented packages under the 1973 edition of the IAEA Regulations, we do not plan to extend Certificate of Competent Authority No. USA/0507/X past its current expiration date of December 31, 1998.

If you have any questions or need any further information concerning this packaging approvals, please contact me at 202-366-4545 or by e-mail at rick.boyle@rspa.dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Boyle, Chief
Radioactive Materials Branch
Office of Hazardous Materials
Technology

Enclosures