

Atomic Energy
Control Board

Commission de contrôle
de l'énergie atomique

P.O. Box 1046
Ottawa, Canada
K1P 5S9

C# 1046
Ottawa, Canada
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Directorate of Fuel Cycle
and Materials Regulation

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

February 13, 1986

30-6-1

Mr. A.W. Grella
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Mail Stop EW 305 S
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Al:

Re: Damaged Package Containing Depleted Uranium

Please find enclosed a copy of a minor investigation done by our organization on a package of depleted uranium that was shipped by truck from Nuclear Metals, 2229 Main Street, Concord, Mass. to the Port of Montreal for marine shipment to Europe.

The shipment consisted of 19 packages of depleted uranium, each package approximately a two-foot cube, weighing approximately 1200 pounds, further contained within a standard 20-foot freight container with opening end doors. The freight container was opened for inspection prior to loading on the ship. It was noted that the packages were not secured and blocked properly within the freight container and that one of the packages was damaged by what appeared to be a puncture by the fork of a fork-lift vehicle. This puncture extended through the 3/4-inch plywood box but not through the inner metal box. Wipe tests in the puncture area indicated minimal contamination with counts of 49 ± 7 CPM and 16 ± 4 CPM on the wipe. Depending on the area used for averaging, these wipe tests

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February 13, 1986

are on the edge of the range of the contamination levels specified for the package surface. Because of the low contamination levels the package was patched up by the Port authorities and the freight container repacked with the packages properly secured and blocked, and the shipment allowed to continue on its way.

Please find enclosed a photograph of the damaged package and a copy of the loading manifest. You may wish to pursue this matter with the shipper or their freight forwarder as appropriate. We believe that the packages should have been properly secured within the freight container and that the damage to the one package was done prior to or during loading.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



John J. McLellan
Supervisor, Transportation Section
Radioisotopes and Transportation Division

Encl.

cc: -Richard Wildman, Port of Montreal
-ERO
-Nuclear Metals



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO
A

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

FROM
DE

R. Descoteaux *(Signature)*

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION - DE SECURITE
OUR FILE - N / REFERENCE
XXXXXXXXXX
YOUR FILE - V / REFERENCE
DATE
86-01-24

SUBJECT
OBJET

INVESTIGATION OF DAMAGED TRANSPORT PACKAGE

Location: Port de Montréal

Contacts: Richard Wildman, Joe Symond

Telephone: (514) 283-7026

Date of Investigation: January 23, 1986

DOCUMENT DOCUMENT	33210.K
FILE DOSSIER	30-6-1
REFERRED TO REFÉRÉ	<i>McLellan</i>

1. Investigation Commentary

This investigation was made at the request of authorities of the "Port de Montréal" as one package containing U238 had been damaged by a blade of a fork-lift vehicle. As can be seen on the attached photograph, the blade went through the 3/4 inch plywood of the wooden case. However, after a close examination, the material inside the case was found to be only slightly scratched at the top of what seems to be a metal container inside the wooden package.

The two wipes taken through the hole, in the package, on top of what seemed to be a metal container showed light Alpha activity of 49.4 ± 7 CPM and 16.4 ± 4 CPM respectively when counted with the Tri-Met, Sample Counter model 372A. There was no activity detected on the surface of the wooden package. The freight container where 19 of these packages were located was also checked for contamination with negative results.

A copy of the shipping document was obtained and is attached to this report. The information listed on this document was verified as being accurate as far as Atomic Energy Control Regulations concerning labelling and packaging of radioactive material. The radiation levels registered at the surface and at one meter from the package were found to be concurring with the document.

There was no evidence of radioactive contamination on the site. The "Port de Montréal" authorities were instructed to place a piece of wood on top of the hole and proceed with the shipping of the material.

It is to be noted that this package was damaged at the U.S. Customs and this incident was not investigated prior to arriving at the "Port de Montréal".

RD/jv

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(HOND)

IN

ECM/DN
1605 HRS
12 RACINE NTL

12 - Intended vessel

CLASS 7 - RADIOACTIVE

All CLASS 7 cargo must be pre-cleared prior to booking.
The following information is required to obtain clearance.

- 1 - type of radioactive material Low specific Activity Substances (LSA) 1
- 2 - purpose/use of material - Melt stock for manufacture of counterweights As listed on Page 7042 Vol. 4
- 3 - shipper Nuclear Metals, 2229 and shields for radio therapy units
- 4 - port of loading MONTREAL Main St., Concord, Ma USA
- 5 - consignee Nukem GMBH, Postfach 110080 D6450 Hanau-11 W.Germany
- 6 - port of discharge HAMBURG
- 7 - final destination BREMEN
- 8 - transport permit number 3.8
- 9 - export permit number
- 10 - Atomic Energy Control Board certificate number XU08524 Amndmnt 01 expires 1 May 1989
- 11 - fissile or non fissile Not applicable
- 12 - radiation at surface 4.0
- 13 - radiation at 1 meter 0.3
- 14 - transport index 2 Yellow 0.3
- 15 - type of package Type A
- 16 - International Maritime Dangerous Goods schedule Class 7 PA 7042
- 17 - label 2 Yellow Schedule 5
- 18 - gross weight 1,201 Lbs. ea. Total 22,827 Lbs. (19 CASES)
- 19 - net weight of radioactive substance 1,164 ea. total, 22,103 Lbs.
- 20 - curries 3.32
- 21 - insurance By Nuclear Metals
- 22 - intended vessel MAN. CHALLENGE V-110 C-264633

