§ 109.5 Opening of packages.

(a) When an agent has an objectively reasonable and articulable belief that a package offered for or in transportation in commerce may contain a hazardous material and that such a package does not otherwise comply with this chapter, the agent may—

(1) Stop movement of the package in transportation and gather information from any person to learn the nature and contents of the package;

(2) Open any overpack, outer packaging, or other component of the package that is not immediately adjacent to the hazardous materials contained in the package and examine the inner packaging(s) or packaging components.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 78 FR 60763, Oct. 2, 2013, §109.5 was amended by revising paragraph (a) introductory text, and adding paragraph (b), effective Nov. 1, 2013. For the convenience of the user, the added and revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 109.5 Opening of packages.

(a) In general. Except as provided in paragraph (b):

* * * * * *

(b) Perishable hazardous material. To ensure the expeditious transportation of a package containing a perishable hazardous material, an agent will utilize appropriate alternatives before exercising an authority under paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 109.7 Removal from transportation.

An agent may remove a package and related packages in a shipment or a freight container from transportation in commerce for up to forty-eight (48) hours when the agent has an objectively reasonable and articulable belief that the packages may pose an imminent hazard. The agent must record this belief in writing as soon as practicable and provide written notification stating the reason for removal to the person in possession.

§ 109.9 Transportation for examination and analysis.

(a) An agent may direct a package to be transported to a facility for examination and analysis when the agent determines that:

(1) Further examination of the package is necessary to evaluate whether the package conforms to subchapter C of this chapter;

(2) Conflicting information concerning the package exists; or

(3) Additional investigation is not possible on the immediate premises.

(b) In the event of a determination in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section, an agent may:

(1) Direct the offeror of the package, or other person responsible for the package, to have the package transported to a facility where the material may be examined and analyzed;

(2) Direct the packaging manufacturer or tester of the packaging to have the package transported to a facility where the packaging may be tested in accordance with the HMR; and

(3) Direct the carrier to transport the package to a facility capable of conducting such examination and analysis.

(c) The 48-hour removal period provided in §109.7 may be extended in writing by the Administrator pending the conclusion of examination and analysis under this section.

§ 109.11 Assistance of properly qualified personnel.

An agent may authorize properly qualified personnel to assist in the activities conducted under this part if
the agent is not properly qualified to perform a function that is essential to the agent’s exercise of authority under this part or when safety might otherwise be compromised by the agent’s performance of such a function.

§ 109.13 Closing packages and safe resumption of transportation.

(a) No imminent hazard found. If, after an agent exercises an authority under §109.5, the agent finds that no imminent hazard exists, and the package otherwise conforms to applicable requirements in subchapter C of this chapter, the agent will:

(1) Assist in preparing the package for safe and prompt transportation, when practicable, by reclosing the package in accordance with the packaging manufacturer’s closure instructions or other appropriate closure method;

(2) Mark and certify the reclosed package to indicate that it was opened and reclosed in accordance with this part;

(3) Return the package to the person from whom the agent obtained it, as soon as practicable; and

(4) For a package containing a perishable hazardous material, assist in resuming the safe and expeditious transportation of the package as soon as practicable after determining that the package presents no imminent hazard.

(b) Imminent hazard found. If an imminent hazard is found to exist after an agent exercises an authority under §109.5, the Administrator or his/her designee may issue an out-of-service order prohibiting the movement of the package until the package has been brought into compliance with subchapter C of this chapter. Upon receipt of the out-of-service order, the person in possession of, or responsible for, the package must remove the package from transportation until it is brought into compliance.

(c) Package does not contain hazardous material. If, after an agent exercises an authority under §109.5, the agent finds that a package does not contain a hazardous material, the agent shall securely close the package, mark and certify the reclosed package to indicate that it was opened and reclosed, and return the package to transportation.

(d) Non-compliant package. If, after an agent exercises an authority under §109.5, the agent finds that a package contains hazardous material and does not conform to requirements in subchapter C of this chapter, but does not present an imminent hazard, the agent will return the package to the person in possession of the package at the time the non-compliance is discovered for appropriate corrective action. A non-compliant package may not continue in transportation until all identified non-compliance issues are resolved.

§ 109.15 Termination.

When the facts disclosed by an investigation indicate that further action is not warranted under this Part at the time, the Administrator will close the investigation without prejudice to further investigation and notify the person being investigated of the decision. Nothing herein precludes civil enforcement action at a later time related to the findings of the investigation.

§ 109.16 Notification of enforcement measures.

In addition to complying with the notification requirements in §109.7 of this part, an agent, after exercising an authority under this Subpart, will immediately take reasonable measures to notify the offeror and the person in possession of the package, providing the reason for the action being taken, the results of any preliminary investigation including apparent violations of subchapter C of this chapter, and any further action that may be warranted.

Subpart C—Emergency Orders

§ 109.17 Emergency Orders.

(a) Determination of imminent hazard. When an Administrator determines that a violation of a provision of the Federal hazardous material transportation law, or a regulation or order...