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Reconditioners' and Manufacturers' Registered Symbols or "M" Numbers

A symbol, or more often an "M Number", is issued by DOT to a company involved in hazmat transportation or packaging as a means of identification. Under certain regulations, the M number must be used solely as the identifier on a package, for example on DOT 39 nonrefillable cylinders. However, other regulations allow the manufacturer or reconditioner to use either the M number or their name and address. A list of manufacturers' and reconditioners' M numbers is maintained in the RIPA office and is available online at:

<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/regs/sp-a/approvals/m-symbols>

Note: In the past, DOT issued "R" numbers to reconditioners; however, for the last several years, all newly registered numbers are issued as "M" numbers. Significantly, "R" numbers remain valid. For the list of R numbers, go here:

<http://ripa.mynewnorth.com/wp-content/uploads/R-Numbers.pdf>

To apply for a registered M number, a letter must be sent to:

Office of Special Permits and Approvals
Attn: Ms. Diane Jones
PHMSA PHH-33
U.S. Department of Transportation East Bdg.
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C., 20590

Phone: 202/366-4512

In the letter an applicant would identify the regulations for which approval or registration is being sought (in this case 49 CFR 173.28 "Reuse, Reconditioning and Remanufacture of Packagings"); the applicant's name, street, city, state and telephone number; and a brief description of the activity for which approval/registration is being sought.