Grace Davison Issues New Shipping Guidelines for Hydrocarbon Samples

Introduction

Grace Davison’s Columbia, MD, USA facility handles about 4000 oil samples per year from customers. Many of them arrive without incident; however, we are seeing an increase in the number of samples that are packaged improperly. The photographs accompanying this article give some examples of improperly packaged samples.

Acceptable Sample Sizes

Grace Davison’s Columbia, MD facility will accept for testing flammable and other liquids such as gas oil, feed, petroleum distillates, LCO, diesel fuel, naptha, gasoline, motor spirits, petrol, slurry oil, scrubber water etc. with proper labels, documentation and in suitable shipping containers consistent with the IATA manual and CFR49 DOT regulations.

For these type of materials Grace Davison prefers 4 oz. packages for evaluation in our Oils Lab and for microactivity testing. If more extensive testing is requested, then an 8 oz. package will be acceptable. These quantities are more than adequate to perform any necessary...
testing to be performed, while also eliminating the need to dispose of large quantities of unused sample. Use of smaller samples should also decrease shipment costs for our customers.

The customer must use packaging that meets CFR49 DOT regulations and include a leak containment barrier. Loose sample container lids, paint cans sent improperly without lid locks, glass bottles of scrubbing water of scrubber water that freeze in the winter and boxes dripping with oil in the delivery truck are examples of why leak containment is required.

For other testing and use, the sample size required may be larger or smaller. The amount to be sent to Grace Davison should be discussed in advance with the Grace Davison personnel who will receive the material. Samples larger than needed increase costs to both Grace Davison, who must dispose of the material, and to the shipper, who must pay for shipment costs. Grace Davison personnel can also be contacted to provide assistance in determining the appropriate type of container or package to maintain sample quality; however, the shipper must be aware that compliance with all applicable shipping regulation is the responsibility of the shipper.

Packaging, Paperwork and Labeling

All samples shipped to Columbia, MD must include on the shipping papers the correct chemical identification information. This permits Grace Davison personnel to properly follow any applicable chemical handling requirements.

All samples must be appropriately labeled with hazard, composition and other identification information. A relevant MSDS shipped with the samples or reference to an MSDS already on file, is also required.
It is critical that samples are shipped with proper packaging leak protection and seals as the Columbia site shipping and receiving department may reject samples that leak during transport and have them returned to the shipper. Samples that leak are also often comprised and therefore cannot be analyzed and will be immediately disposed of.

**Shipments from Overseas**

Grace Davison personnel should be informed in advance of any shipments of materials coming to Columbia, MD from overseas so that proper TSCA import certification documentation can be prepared. Failure to provide such information will slow the passage of the material through customs and can often result in the sample being refused entry into the U.S. A TSCA certification is required for import of any chemical into the U.S. It is also important to note that only U.S. citizens can authorize TSCA certifications. Most problems occur when the customer does not specify the shipping sample name with an accepted shipping regulation name. They may use something such as “Unit 5 feed” instead of a regulation name such as “Gas Oil”.

**Summary**

Compliance with all applicable shipping regulations is the responsibility of the shipper. Adoption of these shipping guidelines will ensure sample integrity and result in accurate analyses. Most important, proper packaging guarantees the safety of everyone who touches the sample.