

SKOLNIK STEEL CONTAINERS + PACKAGING

Technical Memorandum

15 October 2002

What is a "T" Drum

A "T" drum is a salvage drum on which a UN solids test has been performed with water as the test medium... not solid material. In performing the "T" test the drum is not vented after the drop portion of the test, as a salvage drum is intended to be a secondary container not a primary one. The UN rating that appears on the drum is: 1A2T/Y320/S (320kg is how much 85 gallons of water weighs plus the weight of the drum). In addition, the drum is marked with a traditional UN solids rating of 1A2/X440/S.

The concept behind this test was to allow shippers to have confidence that if they used a salvage drum to overpack a drum containing liquid it would adequately contain the damaged drum.

This regulation can be found in "Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations" Eleventh Revised Edition as published by the United Nations. The citing is 6.1.5.1.11. It is recognized in the United States in CFR in 173.3 (c) (7)... "A Salvage packaging marked "T" in accordance with applicable provisions in the UN recommendations may be used."

In the United States a salvage drum is defined in 49 CFR 173.3 (c) where it explains the context in which a salvage drum can be used and the minimum requirements. It also states per 173.3 (c) (1), "...the drum must be UN 1A2 tested and marked for Packaging Group III or higher performance standards for liquids **OR** solids and a leak-proofness test of 20 kPa (3psi)".

Note that the Salvage Drum qualification does not require a liquid rated Salvage Drum for a damaged inner drum containing a liquid. The Solids tested Salvage Drum can be used for either liquid or solid rated inner containers.

Keep in mind that in CFR 49 173.3 (c) (2) it states that there shall be enough absorbent material to prevent excessive movement and the presence of any free standing liquid. What this means is that a salvage drum should not have any liquid coming in contact with the interior of the salvage drum. The liquid should be contained within the damaged container or absorbed by the absorbent in the salvage drum...hence no liquid rating should be necessary.