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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKET SECTION
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October 28, 1997

Docket Clerk
U.S. DOT Dockets
Room PL-401
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001,

Re: English Language Requirement
Qualifications of Drivers
Docket No. FHWA-97-2759-44

Dear Madam or Sir:

Tropical Shipping & Construction Co., Ltd., ("Tropical") an ocean common carrier which utilizes motor carriage for intermodal movements, and Birdsall, Inc. ("Birdsall"), a DOT-licensed motor carrier, hereby file their comments in the above-referenced proceeding. Tropical and Birdsall understand that these comments are filed beyond the deadline for filing comments but request, in view of the fact they are only one day late and are being hand-delivered, that the Federal Highway Administration consider them.

Tropical and Birdsall request that if the FHWA is going to go to more specific English language requirements than are currently contained in the FHWA regulations, that the new requirements include two items. First, that the commercial driver be able to read, understand and obtain a proper interchange receipt for a container. This requirement will eliminate a number of commercial problems as to the condition of the container and other matters on the receipt that are now occurring. Second, that the commercial driver be able to understand all relevant documents when hauling hazardous materials. This requirement is necessary as a safety feature and will enable the driver to quickly assist in any effort to avoid a hazardous material spill.

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Tropical and Birdsall appreciate the opportunity to present these comments and would be pleased to provide additional information if requested.

Sincerely,

HOPPEL, MAYER & COLEMAN

By *Paul D. Coleman*

Attorneys for:

Tropical Shipping & Construction
Co., Ltd.

Birdsall, Inc.