

POP

POP - Sound like a hit single from one of those boy bands?

How about a carbonated beverage?

Or the missing link that follows Snap and Crackle?

By Stacy Umstead, DDC Command Affairs

Well, POP in the Department of Defense (DoD) world stands for Performance Oriented Packaging (POP). POP is packaging designed to transport hazardous material. POP markings are applied to packagings that have been tested and pass a series of tests designed to simulate the stresses of transportation. These tests are based upon U.S. Regulations and include drop, hydrostatic pressure, leak proof, stack, and vibration tests. These regulations are based upon United Nations (UN) recommendations, which comply with worldwide standards.



Linda McCarthy and Christ Megoulas explain Hazard Classes subject to POP requirements.

POP was introduced into international packaging regulations in 1989 and was made a mandatory requirement for shipments outside the continental U.S. (OCONUS) on January 1, 1991. During the following five years, POP was phased into the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 49, the rules set forth by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DoT). POP became the law of the land for packaging of all regulated hazardous material shipments, both OCONUS and CONUS in 1996.

Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) lead center for distribution, the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) Operations Division, manages a Packaging Design and Testing Program and a computer-based program called Packaging for United Nations Conformance—Performance Oriented Packaging (POP) for the DoD. The program consolidates testing completed by all Military services into one database. Once a packaging design passes POP testing, the POP team enters it into the automated program and all DoD employees responsible for the packaging of hazardous materials use the program to obtain

tested, approved packaging configurations. The DDC designs and arranges testing for all hazardous materials except Hazard Class 1 Ammunition and Explosive items. Each military service managing Class 1 material designs and tests the packagings and submits the reports to the DDC for inclusion in the POP Program.

POP provides functionality to make labels compatible in size and format with UN requirements. Current users include U.S. Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, DLA, numerous military reserve units, and the General Services Administration. The program is available for use directly off the DDC Web-Site at <http://www.ddc.dla.mil/pop>. POP is also available in a stand-alone format (without the graphics features) for use during deployments. The files for the stand-alone format are available at the same web site and the database must be updated monthly to assure use of the most current packaging information.

The DDC POP team offers comprehensive training to all DoD entities on use of the POP program. POP training curriculum includes an orientation, general packaging requirements, package markings, use of Selective Testing Variations, exemptions and approvals. Training topics also include Hazardous Material Identification and UN and Military Standard 129 markings. Since 1998, DDC has trained over 750 people.

A new initiative in POP training is the use of Interactive Video Tele-Training (IVT) over the satellite system. DDC currently has several broadcasts scheduled for FY 03. They will be carried on the Government Education and Training Network (GETN).

How do you obtain POP training, or have your satellite site added to a future training broadcast? Call the POP team at (717)-770-8238 or (717) 770-5449 (DSN 771) or email Popsupport@ddc.dla.mil.



Linda McCarthy provides POP Training via satellite.