

# **PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EXPLOSIVE CLASSIFICATION RECOMMENDATIONS THROUGH THE BUREAU OF MINES**

Donald A. Voigt, Supervisory Physical Science Technician  
Richard J. Mainiero, Supervisory Physical Scientist  
Pittsburgh Research Center, Bureau of Mines Pittsburgh, PA.

## **ABSTRACT**

This publication is intended as a guide for persons responsible for obtaining classifications and approvals for explosive compounds, mixtures, or devices from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). It deals with the procedures for obtaining a recommendation for classification of an explosive compound, mixture, or device through the Bureau of Mines. Completion of the procedures detailed in this guide is necessary to obtain a final classification of an explosive compound, mixture, or device and assignment of an "EX" number by DOT, which will allow the producer to offer the explosive for shipment within the United States. This guide also gives procedures for obtaining United Nations (U.N.) classification for shipping outside the United States.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) classifies and approves the shipping of explosive compounds, mixtures, and devices. These classifications and approvals are based on recommendations provided by the Bureau of Mines or the Bureau of Explosives. The Bureau of Mines or Bureau of Explosives recommendations are based on explosives specifications tests and test criteria detailed in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49 (49 CFR), Parts 100 to 177, as well as on expert opinion resulting from extensive experience in the evaluation of explosive properties (Agencies other than DOT may examine, classify, and approve explosive compounds, mixtures, and devices, but the procedures for dealing with those agencies are beyond the scope of this guide.)

DOT classification is necessary for shipping within the United States. If a shipper intends to ship explosive compounds, mixtures, or devices outside the United States, a (Competent Authority Letter to convert the DOT classification into a United Nations (U.N.) classification must be obtained. Conversion must be on request. DOT may