



Are You Compliant?

Did you know that it is illegal per the Federal Aviation Administration to ship magnetic material by way of air carrier without certain safeguards and mitigation techniques per Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations? Did you know that it is possible to determine if the products you intend to ship are safe to place in an aircraft for shipment?

According to FAA Advisory Circular 121-28 "it is forbidden for the carriage by aircraft of any material which, when packaged, has a measurable magnetic field of .00525 Gauss from any surface of the package measured at a distance of 15 feet". Although this is a relatively small magnetic field-there is the chance that this could effect the navigational equipment of the aircraft installed in areas near the baggage compartment.

The most efficient way to determine if your package being shipped is compliant is by the use of a Gaussmeter. A Gaussmeter is a Hall Effect device that economically and accurately measures magnetic fields. FW Bell manufactures two models that are intuitive, user friendly meters that have the accuracy to measure this small field. The model 5180 hand held device and the bench top model 6010 are ideal units for OEM's and shippers to test their packages and insure compliance with the FAA regulations.

It is possible to ship magnetic material by air legally as long as they do not exceed the above field level requirement. This can be accomplished by packaging the materials in a manner such that the magnetic polarities oppose each other. Another way is to use "keepers". These are ferrous material fixtures that channel the magnetic field in a manner that eliminates exterior fields.

For assistance and advice on how to measure your packages to be shipped by air contact the FW Bell factory at 407-678-6900 or your local FW Bell distributor.

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