

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

May 3, 2018

Clotilda Ewart
via the FOI website

Dear Clotilda Ewart,

regarding your Freedom of Information request titled "bung hole" we collected the following information:

A bung hole or bung hole is a hole bored in a liquid-tight barrel to remove contents. The hole is capped with a large cork-like object called a bung. Acceptable usage include other access points that may be capped with alternate materials providing an air- or water-tight access to other vessels. For example, a bung hole on a combustion chamber can be used to remove slag or add coal. Bung holes can also be utilized to insert and remove sensing probes or equipment like mixers to agitate the contents within a vessel. Bung holes were first used on wooden barrels, and were typically bored by the purchaser of the barrel using a brace and bit. Bung holes can be bored in either head (end) of a barrel or in one of the staves (side). With the bung removed, a tapered faucet can be attached to aid with dispensing. When barrels full of a commodity were shipped, the recipient would often bore new bung holes of the most suitable size and placement rather than remove the existing bung. Wooden barrels manufactured by specialty firms today usually are bored by the maker with suitable bung holes, since the hobbyists who purchase them for the making of beer, wine, and fermented foods often do not have a suitable brace and bit. Closed-head steel barrels and drums now used for shipment of chemicals and petroleum products have a standardized bung hole arrangement, with one 2 inch NPT and one 3/4 inch NPT threaded bung hole on opposite sides of the top head. Some steel barrels are also equipped with a 2-inch threaded bung hole on the side.

Sincerely,

John Smith
FOI Manager