



**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety Administration**

June 4, 2012

To: ALL HOLDERS OF THE FOLLOWING DOT COMPOSITE CYLINDER SPECIAL PERMITS:

7218 7235 7277 8023 8059 8162 8391 8718 8725 8814 8965
9634 9716 9894 10019 10147 10664 10905 10915 10945 10970 11005
11194 11382 12706 13105 13173 13381 13583 14003 14154 14266 14339
14387 14509 14562 14576 14621 14787 14932 15260

In accordance with 49 CFR 107.121(a), the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is proposing to modify all active composite cylinder special permits which authorize non-DOT specification cylinders for the transportation in commerce of certain compressed gases. DOT-SP XXXXX is one of the special permits that authorize these cylinders.

PHMSA has determined that these special permits require revisions regarding two separate issues. The first is that composite cylinder special permit requirements that are based on DOT FRP-1, FRP-2 or CFFC standards are not contained within the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR). The design, construction and testing requirements for these cylinders are very similar to those in ISO 11119 that are in the HMR. Secondly, we need to clarify the requalification requirements and make them consistent for all composite cylinder special permits. The permanent volumetric expansion measurement or REE, as currently required in some composite special permits, is being removed as it is not appropriate for composite cylinders.

PHMSA is proposing to modify these special permits as follows:

- “No new construction” after December 31, 2014. After that date, manufacturers of composite cylinders will be required to manufacture cylinders to the ISO 11119 standards incorporated in § 178.71. PHMSA’s objective is to achieve an orderly phase out of the existing special permits as they go through their lifecycle and require all new composite cylinders to be designed, constructed and tested in accordance with the ISO 11119-1, 2 or 3 standards as incorporated in § 178.71.

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- Cylinders must be requalified at least once every five (5) years as follows:
 - (1) Cylinders must be hydrostatically pressure tested. The hydrostatic pressure test must be performed either by the water jacket method in accordance with § 180.205(g) or by the proof pressure test method in which the pressure in the cylinder is increased gradually until the test pressure is reached. The cylinder test pressure shall be held for a sufficient period (at least 3 minutes) to ascertain that there is no failure or tendency for the pressure to decrease during the test or any other condition that might render it unsafe for use in transportation.
 - (2) In the case of malfunction of the test equipment, the hydrostatic pressure test may be repeated. Only two such retests are permitted.
 - (3) In addition to hydrostatic pressure testing, each cylinder must be subjected to internal and external visual inspection in accordance with CGA Pamphlets C-6.1 and C-6.2.
 - (4) Requalification markings must be applied on a label securely affixed to the cylinder near the original test date and over-coated with epoxy. Metal stamping of the composite surface is prohibited.

Within 30 days, you may file a written response to this letter to show cause why PHMSA should not modify this special permit as proposed, in accordance with 49 CFR 107.121(c)(1). To expedite processing of the responses, please provide your written responses to specialpermits@dot.gov with "DOT-SP XXXXX Show Cause Response" as the e-mail subject.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed modifications of this special permit, you may contact PHMSA's Approvals and Permits Division at 202-366-4535.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

Dr. Magdy El-Sibaie
Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety

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