



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

JAN 23 1996

Office of the Chairman

Honorable Rodney E. Slater
Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Washington, D.C. 20590

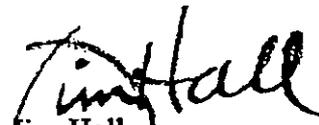
Dear Mr. Slater:

Thank you for your November 27, 1995, letter responding to Safety Recommendation H-95-14, which was issued as a result of the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation of the structural failure of an MC 312 cargo tank near Deltona, Florida, on September 6, 1994.

Safety Recommendation H-95-14 asked the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to revise inspection and testing requirements for all highway cargo tanks constructed of mild- and high-strength, low-alloy steel that are used to transport hazardous materials. The recommendation calls for thickness measurements of appurtenances to the cargo tank (including ring stiffeners) that form air cavities adjacent to the external sheet material of the cargo tank at least once a year, or immediately when visual inspections indicate corrosion. The recommendation also asked the FHWA to require, if the appurtenance has corroded to a predetermined percentage of its manufactured thickness, that the tank sheet material within the air cavity be accessed, and the thickness of the tank sheet measured.

The Safety Board notes that requirements for inspecting and testing highway cargo tanks used to transport hazardous materials are in the Hazardous Materials Regulations, 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 171 through 180, which are developed and issued by the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA). Because the FHWA and RSPA concluded that RSPA is the appropriate agency to act on this recommendation, the Safety Board has transferred the recommendation to RSPA. A copy of this letter and of the original safety recommendation letter (dated August 1, 1995) have been forwarded to RSPA. Pending a response from RSPA, Safety Recommendation H-95-14 remains classified "Open--Await Response."

Sincerely,


Jim Hall
Chairman

cc: Honorable D.K. Sharma, Administrator
Research and Special Programs Administration

Dr. Donald R. Trilling, Director
Office of Environment, Energy, and Safety

