



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Research and  
Special Programs  
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

APR 20 1998

The Honorable Jim Hall  
Chairman  
National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, DC 20594

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter addresses National Transportation Safety Board safety recommendations R-89-52 and H-92-6 issued to the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA). Recommendation R-89-52 was issued as the result of the collision of two Iowa Interstate Railroad Ltd. freight trains within the yard limits in Altoona, Iowa, on July 30, 1989, and recommendation H-92-6 was issued following an investigation of seven highway accidents involving Department of Transportation specification MC 306 and MC 312 cargo tanks. The recommendations state that RSPA should:

**R-89-52**

Establish procedures that require carriers reporting hazardous materials incidents under the provisions of 49 CFR 171.16 to notify shippers whose hazardous materials shipments are involved.

**H-92-6**

Implement, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, a program to collect information necessary to identify patterns of cargo tank equipment failures, including the reporting of all accidents involving a Department of Transportation specification cargo tank.

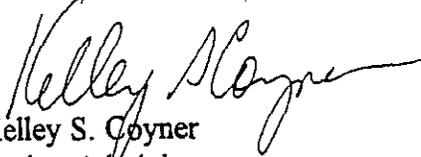
RSPA is developing an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) to obtain feedback and information with regard to updating and modifying the current Hazardous Materials Incident Report Form 5800.1. The changes to be considered in the ANPRM are intended to update Form 5800.1, clarify or provide relief from certain regulatory requirements, and enhance the ability of RSPA to increase the safe transportation of hazardous materials by monitoring the integrity of packagings used in the transport of hazardous materials. Safety Recommendations R-89-52 and H-92-6 will be included in the ANPRM to solicit feedback on how to gather and utilize data to meet the intent of these recommendations.



I request that safety recommendations R-89-52 and H-92-6 be classified at "Open-Acceptable Action" pending the conclusion of this rulemaking. I will keep you informed of our progress.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. William E. Vincent, Director of the Office of Policy and Program Support, at (202) 366-4831.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kelley S. Coyner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kelley S. Coyner  
Acting Administrator