



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Research and  
Special Programs  
Administration



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The Administrator

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

FEB 4 1994

The Honorable Carl W. Vogt  
Chairman  
National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, D.C. 20594

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is in response to safety recommendations I-93-1 and I-93-2 which were the results of a hazardous materials incident involving a Department of Transportation (DOT) specification 3AA compressed gas cylinder. The cylinder, filled with 600 pounds of poisonous anhydrous hydrogen chloride, was discovered leaking inside a tractor semitrailer near Des Moines, Iowa, and caused the closing of a two-mile section of Interstate 35 and the evacuation of about 500 persons. The recommendations state:

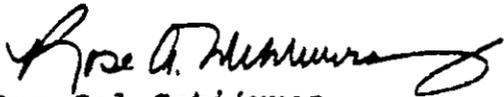
I-93-1- Coordinate with the Compressed Gas Association, Inc., in amending pamphlet C-6, Standard for Visual Inspection of Compressed Gas Cylinders, to require the use of a thread gauge, such as an L9 or equivalent, to measure the interior section neck threads for acceptance or rejection during periodic inspection of cylinders that are used to transport gases with corrosive properties.

I-93-2- Prohibit the use of cylinders that do not meet the acceptance criteria for cylinder neck threads established in CGA pamphlet C-6, Standard for Visual Inspection of Compressed Gas Cylinders.

We will work closely with the CGA in amending pamphlet C-6 to require the use of a thread gauge to measure the interior section threads during periodic inspections of cylinders that are used to transport gases with corrosive properties. The CGA has assigned technical responsibility to their Cylinder Specifications Committee, a group that we have worked with continuously for many years. We had a meeting at the Department of Transportation on January 14, 1994, with Mr. Carl T. Johnson, President of the CGA, and agreed to work closely with his committee in developing and reviewing the necessary inspection requirements to amend pamphlet C-6. After completion of CGA's revision of its pamphlet C-6, RSPA will propose appropriate rulemaking to incorporate appropriate changes in the Hazardous Materials Regulations.

In view of our responsive action, we request that safety recommendations I-93-1 and I-93-2 be classified as "Open-Acceptable Action".

Sincerely,



Ana Sol Gutiérrez  
Acting Administrator

