



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

**October 18, 2024**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

DOT-SP 15384  
(SIXTH REVISION)

**EXPIRATION DATE: 2028-09-30**

(FOR RENEWAL, SEE 49 CFR § 107.109)

1. GRANTEE: TEA Technologies, Inc.  
Amarillo, TX
2. PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS:
  - a. This special permit authorizes the transportation in commerce of certain gases in DOT 107A tank car tanks (tubes). The tubes are retested by acoustic emission and ultrasonic examination (AE/UE), as described in paragraph 7 below, in lieu of the internal visual inspection and the hydrostatic retest required in § 180.205. This special permit provides no relief from the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) other than as specifically stated herein. The most recent revision supersedes all previous revisions.
  - b. The safety analyses performed in development of this special permit only considered the hazards and risks associated with transportation in commerce.
  - c. No party status will be granted to this special permit.
3. REGULATORY SYSTEM AFFECTED: 49 CFR Parts 106, 107 and 171- 180.
4. REGULATIONS FROM WHICH EXEMPTED: 49 CFR §§ 180.507, 180.509, and 180.519(a) and (b) in that AE and UE testing are performed in lieu of the hydrostatic test and the internal visual inspection.

**NOTE:** This does not relieve the holder of this special permit from securing an approval for retesting tubes from the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.
5. BASIS: This special permit is based on the application of TEA Technologies, Inc., dated August 12, 2024, submitted in accordance with § 107.109.

Tracking Number: 2024084535

6. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (49 CFR § 172.101):

Hazardous Materials Description			
Proper Shipping Name	Hazard Class/ Division	Identification Number	Packing Group
Argon, compressed	2.2	UN1006	N/A
Helium, compressed	2.2	UN1046	N/A
Air, compressed	2.2	UN1002	N/A
Compressed gas, n.o.s.	2.2	UN1956	N/A
Nitrogen, compressed	2.2	UN1066	N/A
Compressed gas, oxidizing, n.o.s. (up to 50% oxygen)	2.2	UN3156	N/A

7. SAFETY CONTROL MEASURES:

a. PACKAGING - Packaging prescribed are seamless steel tubes (flanged-end tube), of 50 cubic foot nominal water capacity each, originally manufactured and maintained in conformance to the requirements for DOT Specification 107A seamless steel tank car tanks (§§ 179.500 and 180.500). The tubes have been removed from the trucks and are framed, manifolded and mounted on a trailer. The packaging must meet the following:

- (1) Each tube must be equipped with one shut-off valve that is rated for the test pressure of the tube.
- (2) Each flange gasket must be leak tight and must not be prone to cold flow for the maximum operating pressure at 149°F (65°C) temperature when the tube is filled with compressed gas.
- (3) Each tube must be equipped with two safety relief devices, one at each end. The discharge of each safety relief device must be connected to a single header (pipe) having non-obstructed passage, pointed upward, and extended to the top of the trailer.

b. Requalification - Each tube must be requalified every ten (10) years as prescribed in § 180.205 for DOT-3AAX tubes, except that the tube is examined by the acoustic

emission (AE) and follow-up ultrasonic examination (UE) method described below in place of the hydrostatic pressure test and internal visual inspection. A tube that has been exposed to fire or to excessive heat (temperatures of 1000°F. or greater) must not be retested under the terms of this Special Permit.

- (1) Visual Examination: Each tube must receive an external visual examination in accordance with CGA Pamphlet C-6.
- (2) Acoustic Emission (AE) Equipment: The AE equipment must be in accordance with the specification described in American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standard E1419 and the additional equipment described in TEA Technologies' application on file with Office of Hazardous Materials Safety (OHMS) and as prescribed in this Special Permit.
- (3) AE Calibration and Standardization: Calibration of AE equipment performance and test procedure must be in accordance with ASTM E 1419 and TEA Technologies' test method on file with OHMS, except as specifically stated herein:

(4) AE Test Pressurization:

- (i) The test pressure must equal 1.1 times the highest fill pressure experienced by any individual tube in the unit for the last 12 months prior to requalification. If the highest fill pressure is not available, the AE test pressure must be 0.77 times the lowest test pressure stamped on each tube (107A Tank) in the unit.

NOTE: AE retest per this Special Permit shall not be used to requalify a tube that had been hydrotested within the last 1 year

(5) AE Test Evaluation & Markup:

- (i) The acoustic emission (AE) examination must be in accordance with ASTM E1419, and the tube must be marked for the follow-up UE as described in ASTM E1419.

(6) Ultrasonic Examination (UE) Equipment (Apparatus):

The UE equipment must be in accordance with the specification described in ASTM E-2223-02 "Examination of Seamless, Gas Filled, Steel Pressure Vessels, Using Angle Beam Ultrasonics".

- (7) UE Standardization Ring with Reference Notches (Reference Ring): The reference ring must be fabricated from the same type of tube that is being

examined. The reference ring must have the same diameter, minimum design wall thickness with a tolerance of  $\pm 10\%$ , material, heat treatment, and surface condition as the tube to be examined. Reference notches will be placed into both internal and external surfaces of the reference ring. Notches must be made by EDM process. One or more notches may be placed into a single reference ring. Each circumferential notch must have a depth of less than or equal to 25 percent of  $t_m$  or 0.060" (1.53 mm) whichever is smaller, a width of less than or equal to 0.020" (0.5 mm), and a length of 1" (25.4 mm).

(i) A certification statement signed by a TEA Technologies Senior Review Technologist (SRT) must be available for all standard references at each site where retesting is performed. The certification statement must include a standard reference drawing for each size and type of tube. A standard reference drawing must include dimensions and the locations of each simulated defect.

(8) UE Standardization Procedure: The UE equipment must be standardized for each tube type by using the Standardization Ring and in accordance with the procedure described in ASTM E 2223-02.

(9) UE Procedure:

(i) The UE of each tube must be in accordance with the ultrasonic examination described in ASTM E 2223 except that:

(ii) A copy of the most recent approved operating test procedure must be at each facility performing ultrasonic examination and be made available to a DOT representative when requested. Any change to the written procedures or in UE equipment (software or hardware), other than as supplied by the original equipment manufacturer, must be submitted to, and approved by AAHMS prior to implementation.

(10) Rejection criteria: Rejection criteria as established by fracture mechanics for the tube retested under this Special Permit is a flaw with a maximum depth less than or equal to 25% of the minimum design wall thickness or any crack with a maximum depth of 0.060" (1.53 mm). When a tube is rejected, the retester must stamp a series of X's over the Special Permit or DOT specification number and marked test pressure, or stamp "CONDEMNED" on the shoulder, or neck using a steel stamp, and must notify the tube owner, in writing, that the tube is rejected and may not be filled with hazardous material for transportation in commerce. Alternatively, at the direction of the owner, the retester may render the tube incapable of holding pressure.

- c. **MARKING**: Each tube must be marked "DOT-SP 15384" in characters not less than 1/2" high in addition to the DOT 107A specification marking. Each tube passing requalification under the provisions of this Special Permit must be marked as prescribed in § 180.213(d). In addition, each tube must be marked AE/UE, in characters not less than 1/4 inch high at a location close to the retester's marking.
- d. **REPORT**: A report must be generated for each unit listing all tubes that were examined. The AE and UE reports must include the following:
- (1) Unit/Module/Batch control identification
  - (2) AE and UE equipment, model, and serial No.
  - (3) Specification of the standard reference used to UE the tube. Standard reference (calibration ring) must be identified by serial number or other stamped identification marking
  - (4) Tube serial number, type, and stamped pressure
  - (5) Maximum allowable filling pressure
  - (6) Minimum prescribed sidewall
  - (7) Number of events at each location
  - (8) Description of each AE event (amplitude, duration, energy, etc.)
  - (9) Size of each defect measured (length and depth)
  - (10) Type of each defect measured (crack, pitting, etc.)
  - (11) Defect location relative to each sensor
  - (12) Defect angular location defined by clock direction (3, 5, or 9 O'clock)
  - (13) Defect location relative to sidewall (interior, outer surface, inner surface)
  - (14) AE and UE technicians' name and certification level
  - (15) Test Date
  - (16) Thread inspection results (passed/failed/NA)
  - (17) Internal inspection results (passed/failed/NA)
  - (18) Acceptance/rejection results.

The AE and UE reports must be on file at the test site and made available to a DOT official when requested.

- e. **PERSONNEL QUALIFICATION**: Each person who performs retesting or who evaluates or certifies retest results must meet the following requirements:
- (1) Project Manager - is the senior manager of TEA Technologies responsible for compliance with DOT regulations including this special permit. Additionally, the project manager must ensure that each operator and senior review technologist maintain the required certifications described herein.

(2) The personnel responsible for performing tube retesting under this special permit shall be qualified to an appropriate Level (Level I, II or III)- acoustic emission and ultrasonic examination (AE/UE) in accordance with the American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) Recommended Practice SNT-TC-1A-1996 depending upon the assigned responsibility as described below:

(i) As a minimum, a Level II Operator must perform system startup, calibrate the system, and review and certify the test results when written acceptance and rejection criteria for tubes has been provided by a Senior Review Technologist. Based upon written criteria, the Level II Operator may authorize tubes that pass the retest to be marked in accordance with paragraph 7(c) of this special permit. However, a person with Level I certification may perform a system startup, check calibration, and perform AE/UE under the direct guidance and supervision of a Senior Review Technologist or a Level II Operator, either of whom must be physically present at the test site to be able to observe examination conducted under this special permit.

(ii) Senior Review Technologist (SRT) - is a person who provides written AE/UE procedure, supervisory training, and examinations (level I and II), technical guidance to operators and reviews and verifies the retest results. A SRT must have a thorough understanding of the DOT Regulations (49 CFR) pertaining to the requalification and reuse of DOT tubes authorized under this special permit and ASNT Recommended Practice SNT-TC-1A and possess either:

A Level III certification from ASNT in Acoustic Emission and Ultrasonic Testing; or,

(A) A Professional Engineer (PE) License with documented experience for a minimum of 2 years in Non-Destructive Evaluation (NDE) of pressure vessels or pipelines using the Acoustic Emission and ultrasonic examination techniques; or

(B) A PhD degree in Engineering/Physics with documented evidence of experience in Non-Destructive Evaluation (NDE) of pressure vessels or pipelines using the ultrasonic examination technique or research/thesis work and authoring/co-authoring of

technical papers published in recognized technical journals, in the fields of Acoustic Emission and ultrasonic testing methods.

(C) The SRT must prepare and submit the reports required in paragraphs 7.i. and annually verify that the UE program is being operated in accordance with the requirements of this special permit.

(3) The most recent copies of certification (e.g., ASNT Level III or P.E. license) must be available for inspection at each requalification facility.

f. OPERATIONAL CONTROLS:

(1) The maximum fill pressure for any tube may not exceed 7/10 of the marked test pressure for that tube. The maximum fill pressure for any tube covered by this Special Permit may not exceed 4000 psi.

(2) No person may perform inspection and testing of tubes subject to this Special Permit unless that person is an employee of TEA Technologies, meets personnel qualification of section (e) of this Special Permit, and complies with all the terms and conditions of this special permit.

(3) The marking of the retester's symbol along with the letters AE on the tubes (when individually tested) and/or affixing a data plate certifies compliance with all the terms and conditions of this Special Permit. The data plate should at minimum include the following:

- (i) Retesting company name
- (ii) RIN
- (iii) DOT Special Permit number
- (iv) Trailer/Module's identification
- (v) Filling pressure (lowest stamped working pressure) at 70°F
- (vi) Maximum allowed filling pressure including overfill if applicable at 70°F
- (vii) Test date
- (viii) Retest date
- (ix) Water capacity

(4) Each facility approved by the OHMS to test tubes under the terms of this Special Permit must have a resident operator with at least a Level II Certification in AE/UE.

(5) The dew point of the gases must be maintained at a temperature no greater than -52°F

8. **SPECIAL PROVISIONS:**

a. The designated SRT must review the AE/UE program annually. The designated SRT must submit a letter to OHMSPA verifying that the AE/UE program is meeting the terms and requirements of this special permit.

b. The acoustic emission and ultrasonic examination (AE/UE) data, results, and additional technical information deemed pertinent in successful application of the AE/UE must be recorded and kept at each facility for a minimum of 5 years after completion of AE/UE. For any rejected tube, the defect causing the rejection must be fully characterized and profiled. That is, the specific type of defect should be identified (i.e., isolated pits, or line corrosion) and the specific size of the defect should be determined (i.e., length, depth, width, diameter, area, etc.). The tubes that were condemned at visual inspection (prior to AE) shall also be included in the report.

c. TEA Technologies must maintain statements of personnel qualification and supporting information for each "qualified AE/UE tester" who makes use of this special permit. The location of this statement, for each "qualified AE/UE tester", must be identified to the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety (OHMS).

d. A person who is not a holder of this special permit who receives a package covered by this special permit may reoffer it for transportation provided no modifications or changes are made to the package and it is reoffered for transportation in conformance with this special permit and the HMR.

e. A current copy of this special permit must be maintained at each facility where the package is offered or reoffered for transportation.

f. Motor carriers operating under the terms of this special permit must have a "Satisfactory" or "Conditional" safety rating as prescribed in 49 CFR Part 385.

9. **MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED:** Motor vehicle, rail freight and cargo vessel.

10. **MODAL REQUIREMENTS:** A copy of this special permit, the revision per which the current retest was performed, must be carried aboard each cargo vessel or motor vehicle used to transport packages covered by this special permit.



11. COMPLIANCE: Failure by a person to comply with any of the following may result in suspension or revocation of this special permit and penalties prescribed by the Federal hazardous materials transportation law, 49 U.S.C. 5101 et seq:

- o All terms and conditions prescribed in this special permit and the Hazardous Materials Regulations, 49 CFR Parts 171-180.
- o Persons operating under the terms of this special permit must comply with the security plan requirement in Subpart I of Part 172 of the HMR, when applicable.
- o Registration required by § 107.601 et seq., when applicable.

Each "Hazmat employee", as defined in § 171.8, who performs a function subject to this special permit must receive training on the requirements and conditions of this special permit in addition to the training required by §§ 172.700 through 172.704.

No person may use or apply this special permit, including display of its number, when this special permit has expired or is otherwise no longer in effect.

Under Title VII of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)—“The Hazardous Materials Safety and Security Reauthorization Act of 2005” (Pub. L. 109-59), 119 Stat. 1144 (August 10, 2005), amended the Federal hazardous materials transportation law by changing the term “exemption” to “special permit” and authorizes a special permit to be granted up to two years for new special permits and up to four years for renewals.

12. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Shipments or operations conducted under this special permit are subject to the Hazardous Materials Incident Reporting requirements specified in 49 CFR §§ 171.15 - Immediate notice of certain hazardous materials incidents, and 171.16 - Detailed hazardous materials incident reports. In addition, the grantee(s) of this special permit must notify the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, in

writing, of any incident involving a package, shipment or operation conducted under terms of this special permit.

Issued in Washington, D.C.:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Schoonover", is written over a horizontal line.

for William Schoonover  
Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety

Address all inquiries to: Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, East Building PHH-13, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast, Washington, D.C. 20590.

Copies of this special permit may be obtained by accessing the Hazardous Materials Safety Homepage at <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/approvals-and-permits/hazmat/special-permits-search>. Photo reproductions and legible reductions of this special permit are permitted. Any alteration of this special permit is prohibited.

PO: Mark Toughiry/BM/Nicks/Casey Chambers