



U.S. Department of Transportation
**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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MEMO TO FILE

From: Carolyn Nelson, P.E.
Director of Environmental Analysis & Compliance Division
carolyn.nelson@dot.gov

Subject: **Categorical Exclusion Determination**
Pipeline Safety: Standards Update – ASTM A372/A372M

FINAL ACTION

Through this Direct Final Rule (DFR), PHMSA is incorporating by reference an update to a voluntary, consensus industry technical standard already incorporated by reference within the pipeline safety regulations (49 CFR part 192). Specifically, PHMSA is updating the referenced edition of industry standard ASTM A372/A372M, Standard Specification for Carbon and Alloy Steel Forgings for Thin-Walled Pressure Vessels, to the reapproved 2020 edition (ASTM A372/A372M). ASTM A372/A372M presents the current state of knowledge and technology regarding the manufacture of relatively thin-walled forgings—including gas bottles—for use in pressure vessels. This specification covers carbon and alloy steel forgings. A reference to the reapproved 2020 edition of this standard will replace the existing reference in § 192.177 to ASTM A372/A372M–20e1, Standard Specification for Carbon and Alloy Steel Forgings for Thin-Walled Pressure Vessels, approved March 1, 2020. This updated standard will maintain or improve public safety, prevent regulatory confusion, reduce compliance burdens on stakeholders, and satisfy a mandate in the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) of 1995.

APPLICABLE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Categorical exclusions (CE) are categories of actions that the agency has determined normally do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and therefore do not require either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS). [DOT Order 5610.1D](#), DOT's current National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures, notes in paragraph 9(f) that “[a]n OA may apply a CE established in another OA’s procedures.” PHMSA coordinated with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to determine that the following FHWA CE is applicable to the action described above and can be used by PHMSA per Section 9(f) of DOT Order 5610.1D:

