



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

**DATE 04/21/2026**

**MEMO TO FILE**

**From:** Carolyn Nelson, P.E.  
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**Subject:** Categorical Exclusion Determination  
Pipeline Safety: Standards Update – ASTM A333/A333M

#### **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 parts 192 and 195). Specifically, PHMSA is updating the referenced edition of industry standard ASTM A333/A333M, Standard Specification for Seamless and Welded Steel Pipe for Low-Temperature Service and Other Applications with Required Notch Toughness, to the 2024 edition (ASTM A333/A333M).

ASTM A333/A333M covers wall seamless and welded carbon and alloy steel pipe intended for use at low temperatures. It also specifies requirements for tensile tests, impact tests, hydrostatic tests, and nondestructive electric tests. References to the 2024 edition of this standard will replace the existing references in 49 CFR 192.113; appendix B to part 192; and 49 CFR 195.106(e) to ASTM A333/A333M-18, Standard Specification for Seamless and Welded Steel Pipe for Low-Temperature Service and Other Applications with Required Notch Toughness, approved November 1, 2018. 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:

*Promulgation of rules, regulations, and directives.*<sup>1</sup>

#### **UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

Based on the scope of the action, PHMSA has determined that this rulemaking action does not meet the criteria for unusual circumstances listed in 23 CFR 771.117(b), which would require PHMSA to conduct appropriate environmental studies to determine if the CE classification is proper.

#### **DETERMINATION**

PHMSA analyzed the DFR and determined that the rulemaking will not adversely affect safety and will not significantly affect the quality of the human and natural environment. Based on the information provided in the DFR, including a review of unusual circumstances, PHMSA finds the final action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion in accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. § 4332, DOT Order 5610.1D, Departmentwide National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures, and 23 CFR 771.

**Approved by the Environmental Analysis and Compliance Division:**

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<sup>1</sup> 23 CFR 771.117(c)(20)