



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 – MSS SP-75

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 195). Specifically, PHMSA is updating the referenced edition of industry standard MSS SP-75 High Strength, Wrought, Butt-Welding Fittings to the 2025 edition (MSS SP-75).

MSS SP-75 covers factory-made, seamless, and electric welded carbon and low alloy steel, butt welding fittings for use in high pressure gas and oil transmission and distribution systems; including pipelines, compressor stations, metering and regulating stations, and mains. A reference to the 2025 edition of the standard will replace existing the reference in § 195.118(a) to MSS SP-75-2019 Standard Practice, High Strength, Wrought, Butt-Welding Fittings, published December 2019. 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:

