



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

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**Subject: Categorical Exclusion Determination
Pipeline Safety: Standards Update – ASME B31.4**

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 ASME B31.4, Pipeline Transportation Systems for Liquids and Slurries: ASME Code for Pressure Piping, B31, to the 2022 edition (ASME 31.4).

ASME 31.4 prescribes requirements for the design, materials, construction, assembly, inspection, testing, operation, and maintenance of liquid pipeline systems between production fields or facilities, tank farms, above- or belowground storage facilities, natural gas processing plants, refineries, pump stations, ammonia plants, terminals (marine, rail, and truck), and other delivery and receiving points, as well as pipelines transporting liquids within pump stations, tank farms, and terminals associated with liquid pipeline systems. It also prescribes requirements for the design, materials, construction, assembly, inspection, testing, operation, and maintenance of piping transporting aqueous slurries of nonhazardous materials such as coal, mineral ores, concentrates, and other solid materials, between a slurry processing plant or terminal and a receiving plant or terminal. A reference to the 2022 edition of this standard will replace the existing reference in § 195.110(a) to ASME B31.4-2019, “Pipeline Transportation Systems for Liquids and Slurries: ASME Code for Pressure Piping, B31,” issued November 1, 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:

*Promulgation of rules, regulations, and directives.*¹

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:

¹ 23 CFR 771.117(c)(20)