

ally in accordance with section IX of the ASME Code. In addition to the essential variables named therein, the following must be considered as essential variables: Number of passes; thickness of plate; heat input per pass; and manufacturer's identification of rod and flux. When fabrication is done in accordance with Part UHT of the ASME Code, filler material containing more than 0.08 percent vanadium must not be used. The number of passes, thickness of plate, and heat input per pass may not vary more than 25 percent from the procedure or welder qualifications. Records of the qualifications must be retained for at least 5 years by the tank manufacturer and must be made available to duly identified representatives of the Department of Transportation and the owner of the tank.

§ 178.337-8 Outlets.

(b) *Chlorine tank valves.* See §§ 173.33 (g) (10) and (i) (4) of this chapter. Regarding chlorine tank outlets, see also § 178.337-1(c) (2).

§ 178.337-9 Safety relief devices, valves and connections.

(a) See §§ 173.33(g), 173.301(d), and 173.315(i) of this chapter.

(b) Each valve must be designed, constructed, and marked for a rated pressure not less than the tank design pressure at the temperature expected to be encountered.

(c) Piping and fittings must be grouped in the smallest practicable space and protected from damage as required by § 178.337-10.

§ 178.337-11 Emergency discharge control.

(a) * * *

(2) Excess-flow valve design and operation. See § 173.33(i) of this chapter.

(3) *Chlorine tanks.* See § 173.33(i) (4) of this chapter.

(4) [Canceled]

(b) Shutoff valves. See § 173.33(i) (3) of this chapter.

NOTE 1: [Canceled]

(c) Every vapor and liquid discharge opening in tanks for flammable liquids, flammable compressed gases, and for anhydrous ammonia must be fitted with a remotely controlled internal shutoff valve. Each valve must conform to the following requirements:

(5) On a tank over 3,500 gallons water capacity, each internal shutoff valve must be provided with remote means of automatic closure, both mechanical and thermal, that are installed at the ends of the tank in at least two, diagonally opposite, locations. If the discharge connection at the tank is not in the general vicinity of one of the two locations specified above, one additional fusible element must be installed so that heat from a fire in that

area will activate the emergency control system. Fusible elements used may not have a melting point exceeding 250° F.

(6) On a tank of 3,500 gallons water capacity or less, each internal shutoff valve must be provided with at least one remote control station, and the actuating means may be mechanical. This station must be at one end of the tank, away from the discharge connection area.

§ 178.337-13 Supporting and anchoring.

(a) A cargo tank that is not permanently attached to or integral with a vehicle chassis must be secured by turnbuckles or equally efficient securing devices for drawing the tank down tight on the frame. Means must be provided to present relative motion between the tank and the vehicle chassis when the vehicle is in operation.

(b) Any tank motor vehicle designed and constructed so that the cargo tank constitutes in whole or in part the stress member used in place of a frame must have the tank supported by external cradles. Cargo tanks mounted on frames must be supported by external cradles or longitudinal members. The cradles, where used, must subtend at least 120 degrees of the shell circumference. The design calculations for the supports must include beam stress, shear stress, torsion stress, bending moment and acceleration stress for the loaded vehicle as a whole, using a factor of safety of four, based in the ultimate strength of the material and on two "g" of longitudinal and lateral loading and three times static weight in vertical loading (see Appendix G of the ASME Code).

§ 178.337-14 Gaging devices.

(a) *Level gaging devices.* See § 173.315 (h) of this chapter.

(b) *Pressure gages.* See § 173.33(g) (8) of this chapter.

(c) *Orifices.* See § 173.315(h) (3) and (4) of this chapter.

§ 178.337-15 Pumps and compressors.

(a) See § 173.33(g) (7) and (11) of this chapter.

Interested persons are invited to give their views on the proposal. Communications should identify the docket number and be submitted in duplicate to the Secretary, Hazardous Materials Regulations Board, Department of Transportation, 400 Sixth Street SW., Washington, DC 20590. Communications received on or before August 10, 1971, will be considered before final action is taken on the proposal. All comments received will be available for examination by interested persons at the Office of the Secretary, Hazardous Materials Regulations Board, both before and after the closing date for comments.

This proposal is made under the authority of sections 831-835 of title 18, United States Code, section 9 of the De-

partment of Transportation Act (49 U.S.C. 1657)

Issued in Washington, D.C. on May 28, 1971.

W. F. REA III,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast
Guard, By direction of Com-
mandant U.S. Coast Guard.

KENNETH L. PIERSON,
Acting Director, Bureau of Mo-
tor Carrier Safety, Federal
Highway Administration.

[FR Doc. 71-7769 Filed 6-3-71; 8:49 am]

Office of Pipeline Safety

[49 CFR Part 192]

[Notice 71-2; Docket No. OPS-10]

MINIMUM FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS FOR GAS PIPELINES

Deactivation of Service Lines

The Department of Transportation is considering an amendment to the minimum Federal safety standards for gas pipelines that would require certain steps be taken to prevent the unauthorized introduction of gas into inactive service lines. The amendment would also make several minor changes in terminology in the affected regulation to provide more consistent use of language.

During the past winter two serious gas explosions resulting from similar causes have demonstrated the need for an amendment to the minimum Federal safety standards. The National Transportation Safety Board, in making a recommendation on the subject, described the two accidents as follows:

In the first, 12 people were killed and more than 60 injured when a restaurant owner in New York City, on December 11, 1970, allegedly opened a shutoff valve located outside in the street, allowing gas to flow through unconnected house piping into the building where the gas exploded. In the second case, similar circumstances existed. On January 4, 1971, in Miami Beach, Fla., the new owner of a restaurant reportedly opened the valve at the gas meter behind the building which supplied his premises. The meter valve had been turned off by the gas utility at the request of the old owner. When the gas valve for the restaurant was turned on, the valves of the two other meters located behind the building were also opened. The gas lines leading from one of the other meters had been disconnected previously, but were not capped. When the valve for this meter was opened, it allowed gas to flow into the building. An explosion resulted which killed one person and injured 34 others.

These two occurrences clearly demonstrate the need for regulatory action in this regard.

The proposed rule making would involve a revision of § 192.727 of the minimum Federal standards and the addition of two new paragraphs. One new paragraph would require the locking of valves or physical disconnection and

sealing of the service line. When deactivation is for an indefinite period or for more than 1 year, the other new paragraph would require removal of the meter. Other changes to this section would involve use of the word "pipeline" as opposed to the words "facility" or "line".

Interested persons are invited to participate by submitting written comments on the proposal contained in this notice. Communications should identify the regulatory docket and notice numbers and be submitted in duplicate to the Office of Pipeline Safety, Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590. Communications received before July 15, 1971, will be considered before taking final action on the notice. All comments will be available for examination by interested persons at the Office of Pipeline Safety before and after the closing date for comments. The proposal contained in this notice may be changed in the light of comments received.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is proposed to amend § 192.727 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations to read as follows:

§ 192.727 Abandonment or deactivation of pipelines.

(a) Each operator shall provide in its operating and maintenance plan for abandonment or deactivation of pipelines, including provisions for meeting each of the requirements of this section.

(b) Each pipeline abandoned in place, or, except when undergoing maintenance, each pipeline not subject to gas pressure, must be disconnected from all sources and supplies of gas, purged of gas, and the ends sealed. However, the pipeline need not be purged when the volume of gas is so small that there is no potential hazard.

(c) Whenever service to a customer is discontinued, one of the following must be complied with:

(1) The valve that is closed to prevent the flow of gas to the customer must be provided with a locking device or other means designed to prevent the opening of the valve by persons other than those authorized by the operator.

(2) The customer's piping must be physically disconnected from the gas supply and the open pipe ends sealed.

(d) Each customer meter on an inactive service line must be removed and the connection to the gas supply sealed,

unless the operator has been requested to reactivate the service line in less than 1 year. This paragraph does not apply to shutting off gas for short periods during a changeover of customers.

(e) If air is used for purging, the operator shall ensure that a combustible mixture is not present after purging.

(f) Each abandoned vault must be filled with a suitable compacted material.

This notice is issued under the authority of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (49 U.S.C. § 1671 et seq.), Part 1 of the Regulations of the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (49 CFR Part 1) and the delegation of authority to the Director, Office of Pipeline Safety, dated November 6, 1968 (33 F.R. 16468).

Issued in Washington, D.C., on May 28, 1971.

JOSEPH C. CALDWELL,
Acting Director,
Office of Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc.71-7792 Filed 6-3-71;8:51 am]

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION

[49 CFR Part 1332]

[Ex Parte No. 276]

FILING OF SURFACE MAIL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE ORDERS OR DETERMINATIONS AND CONTRACTS

Request for Public Advice

MAY 12, 1971.

The Commission has received a request from the Post Office Department for reconsideration of certain portions of the order entered in this proceeding on March 23, 1971, 36 F.R. 6425. The Commission's order adopted new regulations to carry out its statutory responsibility under the Postal Reorganization Act, Public Law 91-375, 84 Stat. 719, enacted August 12, 1970.

In seeking reconsideration, the Department has requested changes in the newly adopted regulations governing the filing of mail transportation contracts with the Commission. The requested changes would allow the filing of photocopies of contracts, in lieu of actually signed

copies, and permit alteration of the contract numbering system used by the Commission to correspond to the system used by the Department in its internal operations. All of these changes involve Part 1332 of Subchapter D of Chapter X of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

The Department requests that the following changes be made in these provisions:

1. The last sentence of paragraph (b) of § 1332.3 should be revised to read as follows: "Both copies may be photocopies, provided that they both shall be photocopies of the signed original, and that they both clearly indicate the names and when applicable, the official titles of the officers or officials executing the document on behalf of the respective contracting parties."

2. Paragraph (d) of § 1332.3 should be revised by deleting the words in parenthesis and adding the following language to the end of the paragraph: "* * * or in such other manner as the U.S. Postal Service and this Commission mutually agree."

3. Paragraph (e) of § 1332.3 should be revised to read as follows:

(e) *Renewal and replacement contracts.* Copies of all orders issued by the U.S. Postal Service terminating contracts prior to their normal expiration date shall be filed with this Commission. Copies of all contracts renewing or replacing prior contracts shall also be filed. Such orders and contracts will show the numbers of the prior contracts which are thereby terminated, renewed or replaced.

Any persons interested in the matters involved in this petition may, on or before 20 days from the date of publication of this notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER, file replies to the petition supporting or opposing the proposed modification. An original and 15 copies of such replies must be filed with the Commission and parties must show service of two copies upon the Assistant General Counsel, Transportation, Post Office Department, Washington, D.C. 20260. Thereafter, the Commission will proceed to dispose of the matter, observing any additional requirements that appear warranted to assure due process of law.

[SEAL] ROBERT L. OSWALD,
Secretary.

[FR Doc.71-7885 Filed 6-3-71;8:52 am]