



U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

JUL 17 2015

Mr. David L. Thompson
Thompson Tank, Inc.
P.O. Box 790
Lakewood, CA 90714-0790

Ref No.: 15-0049

Dear Mr. Thompson:

This is a response to your January 15, 2015 email requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) with regard to the manufacture of DOT specification cargo tanks. Specifically you ask if accident damage protection devices specified in § 178.345-8 (applicable to DOT 406, DOT 407 and DOT 412 cargo tanks) are considered an appurtenance or a structural support member.

An accident damage protection device meets the definition of an appurtenance as defined in §§ 178.320 and 178.345-1. An accident damage protection device does not itself have lading retention or containment function and provides no structural support to the cargo tank. Accident damage protection devices if required for DOT 406, DOT 407 and DOT 412 cargo tanks must be attached to the cargo tank in accordance with the requirements of § 178.345-8(a)(3). Accident induced stresses resulting from the appropriate accident damage protection device requirements in combination with the stresses from the cargo tank operating at the MAWP may not result in a cargo tank wall stress greater than the ultimate strength of the material of construction using a safety factor of 1.3.

I trust this information is helpful. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Duane A. Pfund". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Duane A. Pfund
International Standards Coordinator
Standards and Rulemaking Division

Reary
§178.345.8(a)(1)(3)
Accident damage protection
15-0049

Dodd, Alice (PHMSA)

From: Ciccarone, Michael CTR (PHMSA)
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 3:00 PM
To: Hazmat Interps
Subject: FW: Request for interpretation - Roll Over Guards.

Shante/Alice,

I'm not seeing this one either.

From: Ciccarone, Michael CTR (PHMSA)
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 12:52 PM
To: Hazmat Interps
Subject: FW: Request for interpretation - Roll Over Guards.

Shante/Alice,

Please submit this for a formal letter of interpretation.

Thanks,

Mike

From: D.L. Thompson [<mailto:dlthompson@thompson-tank.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 12:21 PM
To: PHMSA HM InfoCenter
Subject: Request for interpretation - Roll Over Guards.

Gentlemen

Q1. Are the Accident Damage Protection Devices or Roll Over Guards specified in DOT 178.348-8 considered to be an Appurtenance / Attachment or a Structural Support Member. DOT 178.345-8 (a) (1) (3) requires that the accident induced stresses transferred to the tank shell with the tank operating at the MAWP be considered.

Note: ASME considers these guards or devices to be an attachment and also requires that these stresses be considered.

Thank you for your consideration.

David L. Thompson
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