



OHM Newsletter

Office of Hazardous Materials

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION / OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY / WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

VOL. I Number 5

November 1971

NOTICES AND AMENDMENTS PUBLISHED DURING OCTOBER

HM-91; Notice No. 71-25--A proposal to provide for cold compressed gases in tank cars. (36 F.R. 20166 - 10/16/71)

HM-92; Notice No. 71-26--A proposal to update requirements for retest periods on tank cars and to provide for new specifications. (36 F.R. 20173 - 10/16/71)

HM-28; Amendment Nos. 173-41A, 177-15A--Extended the effective date to December 31, 1971. (36 F.R. 19370 - 10/5/71)

HM-76; Amendment No. 173-55--Compressed gases in cylinders. (36 F.R. 10/27/71)

Notice of Special Permits issued or denied during October 1971. (36 F.R. 21420 - 11/9/71)

OHM NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

If you are on the mailing list to receive copies of notices and amendments that are published in the Federal Register, you will also receive a copy of the Newsletter. It will not be necessary to make a special request to be placed on the Newsletter mailing list.

SPECIAL PERMITS - Specification 39; Nonreusable Cylinder

Recent adoption of DOT Specification 39 (Docket HM-69), with authorization for use on and after August 17, 1971, has obviated the need for numerous special permits for nonrefillable, nonreusable cylinders. Shippers holding permits of this type should review them to determine whether all provisions thereof have been superseded. If so, DOT-39 cylinders should be purchased in the future. To accommodate depletion of stocks of these special permit packagings in existence prior to December 31, 1971, a reasonable extension will be given consideration upon request.

REFILLING OF SPEC. 39 CYLINDERS

An inquiry has been received as to whether the Department will favorably consider petitions pertaining to the refilling of Spec. 39 "nonrefillable" cylinders.

It must be pointed out that this specification cylinder is considered adequately safe for transportation only when it has not been refilled. The reason is that in its design parameters, and in the safety analysis for design, single filling only was assumed. Therefore, it is not possible to consider refilling and subsequent transportation of cylinders made to this specification. The Department has specifications for refillable cylinders and these regulations must not be subverted by condoning improper use of Spec. 39 cylinders.

IAEA REGULATORY REVIEW PANEL - OHM SENDS A REPRESENTATIVE

A staff member from OHM served as official USA panelist at a meeting of a panel of experts at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in Vienna, Austria, October 18-29, 1971. Technical advisors representing the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission's operating and regulatory staff also participated as well as representatives from the private sector of the nuclear industry.

This meeting was for the purpose of finalizing a major series of revisions to IAEA's Safety Series No. 6, "Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials, 1967 edition."

As a result of the decisions reached by the panel, a fourth and final draft of IAEA Document PL-383 will be issued to all panelists for review early next year. It is anticipated that the final version will be ready for IAEA's Director General to distribute to his Board of Governors for final approval and publication as the 1972 edition to Safety Series No. 6.

It is not contemplated that OHM will recommend any proposed rule changes based on IAEA's revisions until they are formally issued by the IAEA as revised regulations.

On November 1-5, 1971, a smaller panel of experts convened for the purpose of drafting an advisory document regarding transport regulations. This document is expected to be released in 1972.

STATE LP GAS - DOT COORDINATED EFFORTS

OHM has provided a seminar leader or speaker for various state LP Gas Association meetings. The six State Association meetings participated in to date have provided an excellent forum to explain the purpose and meaning of the DOT Hazardous Materials Regulations.

State LP Gas - DOT Coordinated Efforts Cont.

Based on comments received to date, these activities have been beneficial and, as schedules permit, OHM will continue its activities in this coordinated effort with the various State Associations.

REQUESTS FOR MEETINGS ON DOCKET MATERIAL

Occasionally a commenter responding to a notice of proposed rule making will request a meeting with the Hazardous Materials Regulations Board to discuss part or all of the matter proposed in the notice. Such requests in the past have not automatically resulted in a meeting.

Commenters requesting such meetings should specifically identify the areas of concern. In order for the Board to make a reasonable decision they should also state why the particular matter cannot be handled by written comments addressed to the docket. Secretary Volpe has ruled that all such meetings must be fully documented in the public docket. Further, it is the Board's policy to notify all commenters on a particular proposal when a meeting is scheduled. This procedure gives all parties who have expressed interest in a particular proceeding an opportunity to participate.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Department has received information that evidence of stress corrosion cracking is reappearing in MC 330 and MC 331 cargo tanks used for the transportation of anhydrous ammonia. We are not aware of the extent of the problem as it relates to other shipping containers such as cylinders and rail cars, or of accident experience due to stress corrosion.

On Tuesday, December 14, 1971, at 10 a.m., a public meeting will be held in room 2230 Nassif Building (DOT Headquarters), 400 Seventh Street, S. W., Washington, D. C., to discuss this matter.

Any persons having knowledge concerning the existence or extent of stress corrosion cracking, and methods by which it can be prevented, are requested to participate in the meeting. The information developed from this meeting may be used by the Hazardous Materials Regulations Board as the basis for a future rule making action pertaining to the shipping and transportation of anhydrous ammonia in cargo tanks.

PACKAGING AND TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SEMINARS

OHM is continuing to conduct co-sponsored seminars with colleges and universities on the "Packaging and Transportation of Hazardous

Packaging and Transportation of Hazardous Materials Seminars Cont.

Materials". Each course is designed to provide a better understanding of the DOT Hazardous Materials Regulations as they apply to shipment of hazardous materials in all modes of transport, including the intermodal aspects.

These courses are primarily aimed at middle management level personnel involved in all types of activities such as safety, operations, traffic, sales, insurance, container manufacturing, packaging, and Federal, state and local governments.

REGISTRATION: Early registration is highly desirable.

DATE AND LOCATION

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Wayne State University
January 24-27, 1972

Mr. F. M. Vandervegt, Program
Coordinator, Wayne State University
Division of Urban Extension
25610 West 11 Mile Road
Southfield, Michigan 48076
PHONE: (313) 358-2104

University of Connecticut
February 14-17, 1972

Conference and Institutes
Box U-56
University of Connecticut
Storrs, Connecticut 06268
PHONE: (203) 429-3311 Ex. 466



W. J. Burns
Director

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

FIRST CLASS

