§ 179.2 Definitions and abbreviations.

(a) The following apply in part 179:

(1) AAR means Association of American Railroads.

(2) Approved means approval by the AAR Tank Car Committee.

(3) ASTM means American Society for Testing and Materials.

(4) [Reserved]

(5) Definitions in part 173 of this chapter also apply.

(6) F means degrees Fahrenheit.

(7) NGT means National Gas Taper Threads.

(8) NPT means an American Standard Taper Pipe Thread conforming to the requirements of NBS Handbook H–28 (IBR, see §171.17 of this subchapter).

(9) [Reserved]

(10) Tank car facility means an entity that manufactures, repairs, inspects, tests, qualifies, or maintains a tank car to ensure that the tank car conforms to this part and subpart F of part 180 of this subchapter, that alters the certificate of construction of the tank car, that ensures the continuing qualification of a tank car by performing a function prescribed in parts 179 or 180 of this subchapter, or that makes any representation indicating compliance with one or more of the requirements of parts 179 or 180 of this subchapter.

(11) Tanks means tank car tanks.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 179.3 Procedure for securing approval.

(a) Application for approval of designs, materials and construction, conversion or alteration of tank car tanks under these specifications, complete with detailed prints, must be submitted in prescribed form to the Executive Director—Tank Car Safety, AAR, for consideration by its Tank Car Committee and other appropriate committees. Approval or rejections of applications based on appropriate committee action will be issued by the executive director.

(b) When, in the opinion of the Committee, such tanks or equipment are in compliance with the requirements of this subchapter, the application will be approved.

(c) When such tanks or equipment are not in compliance with the requirements of this subchapter, the Committee may recommend service trials to determine the merits of a change in specifications. Such service trials may be conducted only if the builder or shipper applies for and obtains a special permit.

§ 179.4 Changes in specifications for tank cars.

(a) Proposed changes in or additions to specifications for tanks must be submitted to the Executive Director—Tank Car Safety, AAR, for consideration by its Tank Car Committee. An application for construction of tanks to any new specification may be submitted with proposed specification. Construction should not be started until the specification has been approved or a special permit has been
§ 179.7 Quality assurance program.  
(a) At a minimum, each tank car facility shall have a quality assurance program, approved by AAR, that—
   (1) Ensures the finished product conforms to the requirements of the applicable specification and regulations of this subchapter;
   (2) Has the means to detect any nonconformity in the manufacturing, repair, inspection, testing, and qualification or maintenance program of the tank car; and
   (3) Prevents non-conformities from recurring.
(b) At a minimum, the quality assurance program must have the following elements:
   (1) Statement of authority and responsibility for those persons in charge of the quality assurance program.
   (2) An organizational chart showing the interrelationship between managers, engineers, purchasing, construction, inspection, testing, and quality control personnel.
   (3) Procedures to ensure that the latest applicable drawings, design calculations, specifications, and instructions are used in manufacture, inspection, testing, and repair.
   (4) Procedures to ensure that the fabrication and construction materials received are properly identified and documented.
   (5) A description of the manufacturing, repair, inspection, testing, and qualification or maintenance program, including the acceptance criteria, so that an inspector can identify the characteristics of the tank car and the elements to inspect, examine, and test at each point.
   (6) Monitoring and control of processes and product characteristics during production.
   (7) Procedures for correction of nonconformities.
   (8) Provisions indicating that the requirements of the AAR Specifications...