

In accordance with revised 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), Mr. Durham's exemption will be valid for 2 years unless revoked earlier by the OMCS. The exemption will be revoked if (1) he fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the exemption; (2) the exemption has resulted in a lower level of safety than was maintained before it was granted; or (3) continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e). If the exemption is still effective at the end of the 2-year period, Mr. Durham may apply to the OMCS for a renewal under procedures in effect at the time.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 322, 31315 and 31136; 49 CFR 1.73.

Issued on: December 6, 1999.

Brian M. McLaughlin,

*Director of Policy and Program Management,
Office of Motor Carrier Safety.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-99-5143, Notice No. 99-15]

Safety Advisory: Unauthorized Marking of Compressed Gas Cylinders

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Safety advisory notice.

SUMMARY: This is to notify the public that high-pressure, compressed gas cylinders were marked but may not have been tested by Fire Extinguisher Sales & Service (FESS), 1100 Weimer Road, Bloomington, Indiana. Those cylinders may pose a safety risk to the public. During a September 28, 1998 compliance inspection, RSPA determined that FESS had marked an undetermined number of cylinders as having been properly retested in accordance with the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) without retesting the cylinders. In addition, RSPA determined that FESS had marked cylinders as tested in accordance with the HMR without holding a Retester Identification Number (RIN) issued by RSPA.

A hydrostatic retest and visual inspection, conducted as prescribed in the HMR, are used to verify the structural integrity of a cylinder. If the hydrostatic retest and visual inspection are not performed in accordance with the HMR, a cylinder with compromised structural integrity may be returned to

service when it should be condemned. Serious personal injury, death, or property damage could result from rupture of a cylinder. Cylinders that have not been retested in accordance with the HMR may not be charged or filled with compressed gas or other hazardous material.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Guadalupe Castellanos, Hazardous Materials Enforcement Specialist, Central Region, Office of Hazardous Materials Enforcement, Research and Special Programs Administration, US Department of Transportation, 2350 East Devon Avenue, Suite 136, Des Plaines, IL 60018. Telephone: (847) 294-8580, (847) 294-8590 fax.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Based on its inspection, RSPA learned from FESS that it had been servicing cylinders without holding a RIN for nearly 30 years. Furthermore, the condition of the equipment at the time of inspection indicated that it had not been used by FESS to hydrostatically test cylinders for quite some time. FESS indicated in a written statement to RSPA that it had represented cylinders as properly tested when no tests had been performed. Because FESS failed to maintain accurate records of retest and reinspection, it is impossible to determine the number of cylinders that FESS has marked without retesting or retested without a RIN. These cylinders may pose a safety risk to the public.

Cylinders serviced by FESS prior to November 23, 1998, are marked on their shoulders with the letters "M" and "L" separating the month and year of the alleged hydrostatic retest. For example:

M	
5	98
L	

Anyone who has a cylinder that was last serviced by FESS or marked with an "M" and "L" should consider the retest marking invalid and should not refill and offer the cylinder for transportation until it has been successfully retested.

It is further recommended that persons finding or possessing cylinders described in this safety notice contact Ms. Guadalupe Castellanos for additional information.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 8, 1999.

Robert A. McGuire,

*Deputy Associate Administrator for
Hazardous Materials Safety.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-99-4523; Notice 2]

Pipeline Safety: Candidates for System Integrity Inspection Pilot Program

AGENCY: Office of Pipeline Safety, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) has completed an initial screening of three candidate companies for the System Integrity Inspection (SII) Pilot Program. They are Conoco Pipe Line Company, El Paso Natural Gas Company, and Portland Pipe Line Corporation. OPS believes these companies' SII project proposals satisfy the established eligibility and screening criteria, based on a review of each company's Application Letter and safety and compliance record. OPS is beginning discussions with these companies to explore their proposed SII projects in more detail. Before making its final selection of SII Pilot Program participants, OPS invites public comment on any aspect of a candidate company's participation in the SII Pilot Program. OPS will consider this feedback in the final selection of SII Pilot Program companies. OPS may later screen additional candidate companies, and will publish summaries of their proposals in subsequent **Federal Register** Notices.

The appendix to this notice provides information on how OPS will examine the management processes each company employs for conducting and documenting internal audits for regulatory compliance.

DATES: OPS requests that comments to this Notice be submitted on or before February 11, 2000, so that public input can be fully considered before OPS selects qualified SII Pilot Program participants.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Comments should identify the docket number RSPA-99-4523. Submit the original comment document and one (1) copy. If you wish to receive confirmation of receipt of your comments, you must include a self-addressed stamped postcard. The Dockets Facility is located on the plaza level of the Nassif Building in Room 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC. The Dockets Facility is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday