



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

11-14

June 10, 2014

Annual Cargo Piping Test Noncompliance

It has come to our attention that local shipyards have been using nitrogen as the testing medium for conducting annual cargo piping tests, which is not in compliance with Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Subchapter O, Part 156.170. In order to alleviate the hazards associated with using compressed gasses as a test medium, we want to ensure all cargo piping tests conducted at shipyards and facilities are performed as required by the regulations.

Title 33, CFR, Part 156.170(c)(1)(iii) states that, each nonmetallic transfer hose must “not burst, bulge, leak, or abnormally distort under static liquid pressure at least 1½ times the maximum allowable working pressure.” Additionally, Title 33, CFR, Part 156.170(c)(4) states that, “each loading arm and each transfer pipe system, including each metallic hose, must not leak under static liquid pressure at least 1½ times the maximum allowable working pressure.” The liquid testing medium is not required to be water but is required to be compatible with the hose tube as recommended by the manufacturer.

If you would like to use another means of testing, Title 33, CFR, Part 156.170(h) states that, “upon request of the owner or operator, the Captain of the Port (COTP) may approve alternative methods of compliance...if the COTP determines that the alternative methods provide an equal level of protection.” If you would like to complete tests using an alternative method please contact our office to obtain approval. However, please be aware that due to the increased hazards and risks, pneumatic testing is typically not approved.

Any questions or concerns pertaining to this letter may be directed to LT Rebecca Corson at Rebecca.M.Corson@uscg.mil or (409)723-6572.

G. J. PAITL
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Captain of the Port