



16711/Safety Relief Valves
14 October 1998

From: Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District
To: Distribution

Subj: CARGO TANK SAFETY RELIEF VALVE TEST INTERVALS

Ref: (a) 46 CFR 151.04-05 (i)
(b) 46 CFR 151.01-25 (c)
(c) 46 CFR 98.25-95 (c)

1. In response to a request from industry, we have reviewed the regulations regarding the test intervals for cargo tank safety relief valves. The test interval for cargo tank safety valves on anhydrous ammonia barges built before 6 September 1977 remains 4 years.
2. The regulations, while somewhat convoluted, require cargo tank safety relief valves to be tested on a regular basis. Vessels subject to Subchapter O must follow reference (a), which requires that safety relief valves be tested at the time of inspection for certification (every 2 years). However, most ammonia barges were built in the 1960's and therefore are allowed to have the cargo safety relief valves tested every 4 years in accordance with references (b) and (c).
3. We have considered a request to change the safety valve test date format on the Certificates of Inspection (COIs) to reflect the test **due** dates vice the **last** test dates to avoid confusion but have concluded that a change to the Marine Safety Information System (MSIS) is impractical at this time. For those anhydrous ammonia barges built before 6 September 1977, OCMIs may elect to place an Inspection Note (MISN) in MSIS to indicate that safety relief valves should be tested in accordance with 46 CFR 98.25-95 (c).
4. Questions regarding this matter may be referred to LT Frank Rego at (504) 589-6271.


M. J. BROWN
By direction

Dist: All Eighth District MSOs, MSUs and MSDs

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