

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS GUIDANCE

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Summary:

This Hazardous Materials Guidance document provides guidance regarding the movement of tank cars overdue for inspection/qualification.

Discussion:

The Hazardous Materials Regulations, at 173.31(a)(3) state:

No person may fill a tank car overdue for periodic inspection with a hazardous material and then offer it for transportation.

The regulation allows the movement of tank cars loaded before they became due for periodic inspection, but such tank cars may not be subsequently reloaded until the periodic inspection requirements have been filled.

Examples:

Tank car FRAX 12345, due for a pressure relief valve inspection in 2007, is loaded in November 2007 and offered for transportation in 2008. The regulation allows this movement. If the same car were instead loaded in January 2008, it could not be offered into transportation.

Tank car FRAX 6789, due for periodic inspection in 2007, is discovered in January 2008 at the loading rack awaiting loading. It may not be loaded and offered into transportation, but may be moved to a tank car facility for inspection without further approval by FRA.