



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Christopher A. Hart  
Chairman  
National Transportation Safety Board  
490 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20594

JUL - 1 2015

Dear Chairman Hart:

This letter provides an update regarding Safety Recommendation H-12-3, issued to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) in response to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation of a July 15, 2009, incident in Swansea, S.C. This incident involved a cargo tank motor vehicle (CTMV) in which the cargo transfer hose ruptured shortly after the transfer of anhydrous ammonia from the CTMV to a storage tank. The ensuing release of anhydrous ammonia caused a fatality, minor respiratory problems for several persons, and the sheltering in place of nearby residents. The NTSB investigation determined that the probable cause of the accident was the use of a cargo hose assembly not chemically compatible with anhydrous ammonia. The NTSB issued five safety recommendations to PHMSA in its summary report of the accident investigation. Four of the five recommendations (H-12-2 and H-12-4 through -6) have closed under previous agency actions. Actions to address the remaining open recommendation are discussed below.

### H-12-3

*Require cargo tank motor vehicle carriers and transfer facilities to verify (1) that cargo transfer hose assemblies, whether carried on the vehicle or provided by the facility, are chemically compatible with the hazardous material to be transferred and (2) that drivers verify hoses are marked as compatible with the material to be transferred before either loading or unloading operations begin.*

In the March 11, 2014, letter to the NTSB, PHMSA indicated its future issuance of a guidance document to address this recommendation. Accordingly, PHMSA developed two complementary documents to serve as recommended best practices guidance materials for CTMV loading and unloading operations. On May 4, 2015, PHMSA released these guidance documents: “*Cargo Tank Motor Vehicle (CTMV) – Loading/Unloading Operation: Recommended Best Practices Guide*” and “*Cargo Tank Motor Vehicle (CTMV) – Loading/Unloading Operation: Recommended Best Practices Pocket Guide*.”

The guides will serve as comprehensive reference tools for safe loading and unloading practices. As an additional reference, the guides will include appendices of current OSHA and EPA requirements. The best practices guide includes the recommended best practices for

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ensuring that hazardous materials and packaging (including transfer equipment) are compatible. The pocket guide functions as a quick reference tool and encapsulates the key tools in the best practices guide. Both documents will be available on the PHMSA website (on the Publications page<sup>1</sup>) and in print. Finally, PHMSA has promoted the guidance documents with industry representatives and will continue to use social media and Hazardous Materials Safety Assistance Team (HMSAT) outreach efforts to inform the public.

If we can be of further assistance or answer any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Stephen Domotor, Chief Safety Officer/Assistant Administrator, at 202-366-7530 or at Stephen.Domotor@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy Cummings", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stacy Cummings  
Interim Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> <http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/outreach-training/publications>