

Patience Wearing Thin As U.S. Government Again Delays Ruling On Enhanced Tank-Car Standards

PHMSA Announces Regulations Will Now Be Revealed In May 2015.

Originally to be announced in January, Congress is pressuring Secretary Anthony Foxx and Pres. Obama to issue a decision. Get the full scoop in this edition of the *Midland Edge*.

It has been 19 months since the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) first announced its Advance Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) concerning the improvement of railroad tank-car safety. Following this announcement, several derailments of trains carrying crude oil have taken place. Now some members of Congress are urging the expedition of the ruling in hopes of increasing overall safety and minimizing potential damage to the railroads, environment and economy.

Letters to the President and Secretary

Members of Congress - primarily from states with a large volume of crude-by-rail traffic - have begun to write Pres. Obama and/or the Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx voicing their concerns with the delayed ruling.

In a two-page joint letter to the president, Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) requested immediate action to be taken by the president after the Obama administration missed the statutory deadline of Jan. 15 to announce a final ruling. Also within the letter, the pair highlighted recent train derailments and that some of the railcars involved were of the new CPC-1232 standard - prompting them to request the final rules should include even tougher standards than those used in CPC-1232.

The Midwest is not the only region to pressure the U.S. government. Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR) released a letter he wrote to Secretary Foxx earlier this month, excerpts below.

Without the DOT's finalized rule, shippers will continue to use existing tank cars, delaying upgrades and purchases until the new regulations are in place...

Railroad shippers, railcar manufacturers, and local communities agree: transportation of these flammable materials needs to be improved and further delays are unacceptable. I urge you to promptly finalize the Enhanced

Tank Car Standards and Operational Controls for High-Hazard Flammable Trains rule.

Needs of Midland Customers

As many of you know, Midland Manufacturing is often asked for its input on the creation of industry standards and how to best engineer products to meet specific objectives. The enhanced tank-car standards are no exception and Midland is optimistic the government will issue a final ruling sooner than later. Until then, Midland wants all of its customers to know that it has several products awaiting launch.

In the Works

Without giving away too much information, here is what Midland can tell you about one of the products that has been developed in anticipation of the new standards:

- Pressure relief valves for HHFT applications
- Higher flow rates and better overall functionality
- Range of construction materials

Additional Changes are Inevitable

The volume of crude-by-rail transport has increased and like most things that jump in overall popularity or frequency, the amount of legislation and scrutiny has increased, as well. And until there is a significant decrease in CBR shipping, more regulations will come.

More importantly, whatever the future holds, Midland Manufacturing is continuing to contribute to railcar standards and the success of its customers. Midland Manufacturing is Leading the Way in Railcar Equipment Innovation.

Enjoy the issue.

AAR: U.S. Rail Traffic Numbers Decrease In Week No. 13

The AAR reported a 3.8% increase in intermodal rail traffic for the week ending April 4. However, the increase was not enough to offset a 6.2% drop in U.S. carload numbers as compared the same week in 2014.

Through April 4, U.S. railroads have posted a cumulative volume of 3,644,976 carloads, down 2%, and 3,289,725 intermodal units, up 0.4% for the year. Total combined U.S. traffic for the period is up 0.1% compared to last year.

Full story: <http://bit.ly/1NWyhGJ>
SOURCE: *Progressive Railroading*

NTSB Urges Quick Action On Tank-Car Safety Measures

The NTSB wrote a letter to the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) recommending an aggressive schedule for replacing or retrofitting the existing tank-car fleet with ceramic thermal blankets or other thermal protections against heat from fire, as well as with appropriately sized pressure relief valves.

The board also stated that based on recent investigations, the enhanced railcars known as type CPC-1232s are also not satisfactory under such conditions.

Full Story: <http://bit.ly/1HVeQfE>
SOURCE: *Progressive Railroading*

Report Expects Demand For Oilfield Chemicals To Increase

Cleveland-based Freedonia Group projects that technological advances and continued development of oil and gas reserves will generate an average annual growth of 6% in oilfield chemicals. Recent price drops of crude oil have hurt, but expect a rebound, as well-stimulation chemicals will be in demand.

Full Story: <http://bit.ly/1INwj9M>
SOURCE: *Chem.Info*

AAR, API Collaborate On CBR First-Responder Safety Course

The Association of American Railroads and American Petroleum Institute have created a free crude-by-rail safety course for emergency-response organizations and fire departments via the TRANSCAER program.

"When it comes to shipping crude by rail, our first priority is safety," said API President and CEO Jack Gerard. "While the first steps are to prevent and mitigate the impact of train derailments, if an incident happens, we also need to make sure firefighters and first responders have the knowledge they need to protect local communities."

The first safety courses took place the weekend of March 28-29 in Nebraska and Florida. Additional courses have already been scheduled or are in the planning stages for more than 15 states. Fire departments and other state and local officials interested in the training should contact their TRANSCAER state coordinator.

Full Story: <http://bit.ly/1CIFY3E>
SOURCE: *Railway Age*

Trinity Announces Increase, Renewal Of Its Leasing Facility

Trinity Industries, Inc., announced its subsidiary, Trinity Industries Leasing Company (TILC), has renewed its railcar leasing warehouse facility through April 2018, and increased its capacity from \$475 million to \$1 billion.

Trinity Senior Vice President and CFO James Perry said, "The increase in the warehouse capacity will support the growth of our leasing platform and our strong ability to originate new railcar leases. Our railcar-leasing warehouse is an important element of the Company's liquidity and overall financial flexibility."

Full Story: <http://bit.ly/1PohLmd>
SOURCE: *The Street*

Ethylene, EO Market Expect Growth Due To F&B Industry

The report "Ethylene Oxide Market And Ethylene Glycol Market – Global Industry Analysis, Raw Material And Consumption Trends, Size, Share And Forecast 2012 – 2018," by Transparency Market Research, revealed the overall ethylene market is expected to hit a 5.7% CAGR from 2013 to 2018, with significant demand coming from the food-and-beverage industry.

Full story: <http://bit.ly/1aqf02>
SOURCE: *Digital Journal*

NEW! A-1076 Low-Profile PRV

Midland has just released a new and exciting product to minimize shearing and the potential for product release during a tank-car rollover.

The [A-1076 Low-Profile Pressure Relief Valve for Ethylene Oxide](#) is the culmination of customer feedback and the need to meet ever-increasing regulations. By combining the extremely low profile of the A-1076 and the appropriate top-fitting protection, customers can be assured of the most advanced protection against accidental and non-accidental release of toxic inhalation hazards (TIH).

Features of the A-1076:

- 75 psig set-to-discharge
- Flow rating: 965 scfm-air
- Fits traditional PRV mounts
- Guided stem at top and bottom
- Positive sealing
- Repeatable set-to-discharge

The A-1076 Low-Profile PRV is also available as part of the [Ethylene Oxide Enhanced Fittings Package](#).

Upcoming Industry Events

2015

• CHLOREP Team Training

Jackson, MS (April 19-23)

• AAR Tank Car Committee Meeting

Dallas, TX (April 21-23)

View more: www.midlandmfg.com