

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TBT/Notif.90.262

20 September 1990

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Special Distribution

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.4.

1. Party to Agreement notifying: <u>UNITED STATES</u>
2. Agency responsible: Department of Transportation (313)
3. Notified under Article 2.5.2 [X], 2.6.1 [], 7.3.2 [], 7.4.1 [], other:
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading): Tank car tanks (HS Chapter 8606)
5. Title: Specifications for Tank Car Tanks (6 pages)
6. Description of content: The Research and Special Programmes Administration and the Federal Railroad Administration are considering the development of regulations that would reduce the risk of violent rupture and release of hazardous materials when tank car tanks are involved in accidents. The 15 May 1990 Notice solicits comments on the cost and safety benefits that would be derived should the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) be amended to: (1) Require thermal protection or head protection, or both, on new and existing tank car tanks that are constructed of aluminium or nickel, or that are used to transport certain hazardous materials; (2) disallow the use of the half-head shield as an option to meet head protection requirements; (3) prohibit the use of tank car tanks that have a man-way opening located below the liquid level of the material transported; (4) disallow the use of so-called "non-pressure" tank car tanks to transport materials poisonous by inhalation; (5) increase the start-to-discharge pressure setting on certain tank car tanks; (6) establish specifications for the securement and accident survivability of tank car tank closure fittings; and (7) phase out certain "grandfather" provisions. The 29 August 1990 Notice solicits comments on the following amendments to the HMR: (1) prohibit bottom outlets on new and existing tank car tanks used to transport certain hazardous materials; (2) establish a maximum permissible safety relief valve capacity for materials that are toxic by inhalation; (3) require that, for new and existing tank car tanks, the exterior surface of a carbon steel tank and the inside surface of a carbon steel jacket be given a protective coating when foam-in-place insulation is applied; and (4) permit reductions in the safety vent size, or increases in the tank test pressure and vent bursting pressure, on new and existing tank car tanks used to transport certain hazardous materials.

7. Objective and rationale: Safety

8. Relevant documents: 55 FR 20242, 16 May 1990 and 55 FR 35327, 29 August 1990; 49 CFR Part 173. Will appear in the Federal Register when adopted.

9. Proposed date of adoption and entry into force: Not yet determined

10. Final date for comments: 4 January 1991

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point or address of other body: