



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

DEC 11 2015

Mr. Kevin Woloszyk  
Salco Products, Inc.  
1385 101st St., Suite A  
Lemont, IL 60439

Ref. No. 15-0124

Dear Mr. Woloszyk:

This is in response to your June 11, 2015 e-mail requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) relating to the term "tank car facility." Specifically, you ask if a manufacturer of subcomponents for tank cars (e.g., valves used for loading and unloading) are considered tank car facilities as defined by § 179.2(a)(10).

The answer is yes. A tank car facility is defined in § 179.2(a)(10) as an entity that: (1) manufactures, repairs, inspects, tests, qualifies, or maintains a tank car to ensure that the tank car conforms to Part 179 and Subpart F of Part 180; (2) that alters the certificate of construction of the tank car; (3) ensures the continuing qualification of a tank car by performing a function prescribed in Parts 179 or 180; or (4) makes any representation indicating compliance with one or more of the requirements of Parts 179 or 180.

Additionally, Appendix B section 3.4 of the AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices (incorporated by reference in § 171.7), designates a facility requiring registration as one who manufactures service equipment for tank cars. Moreover, the AAR Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices defines "manufacture" as: to produce a tank car capable of rolling on its own wheels, or service equipment ready to be applied to the tank car. Thus, based on the fourth component of the tank car facility definition discussed above and the AAR definition, the term "tank car facility" would encompass all those who manufacture equipment that is attached to an opening on a tank car, including manufacturers of valves. Furthermore, this issue is being considered by the Rail Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) under Task No. 15-04.

I trust this information is helpful. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Dirk Der Kinderen  
Acting Chief Standards Development Branch  
Standards and Rulemaking Division