

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Railroad Administration
(FRA E.O. No. 2)

EMERGENCY ORDER
No. 2

Emergency Order Prohibiting Use of Certain UTLX Tank Cars

FRA investigation revealed that certain tank cars built to DOT specification 112A400W have a structural inadequacy which results in tank shell cracking and possible leakage of hazardous lading. These cars are used to transport highly flammable liquified petroleum gases of the same class of material involved in the Laurel, Mississippi, Crescent City Illinois, Houston, Texas and East St. Louis, Illinois accidents.

The shells of these tank cars are susceptible to cracking and failure in the bolster area. Cracks in pressure vessels are serious. As a result of the forces of train action and classification, cracks may develop and cause leaks in these pressure tank cars. Product leakage may ignite and since these cars usually operate in groups, a fire resulting from a leak in one car could cause "explosion" of adjacent cars due to massive fire impingement on their shells. In such an event, there would be a substantial danger to railroad employees and the general public since the adjoining tank cars or parts thereof may be hurled hundreds of feet when ruptured.

I have thoroughly reviewed and carefully considered this matter. I therefore conclude that our inspections and investigation show that the tank cars listed below are in unsafe condition and thereby create an emergency situation involving a hazard of death or injury to persons affected by the use of such equipment. Therefore, pursuant to authority contained in section 203 of the Federal Railroad Safety Act of 1970 (45 U.S.C. §423) delegated to me under section 1.49(n) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Transportation (49 C.F.R. 1.49(n)), I hereby issue this order prohibiting further use of the cars listed below by any railroad effective 12:01 a.m. on December 21, 1972:

UTLX 83095-83184

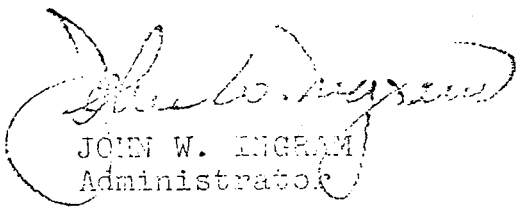
UTLX 83267-83339

UTLX 83341-83449

An opportunity for review of this order shall be provided in accordance with section 554 of title 5 of the United States Code.

A civil penalty of not less than \$250 no more than \$2,500 will be assessed for each violation of this order and each day of such violation will constitute a separate offense (45 U.S.C. §438).

Issued in Washington, D.C. on December 20, 1972.


JOHN W. INGRAM
Administrator