

March 12, 2021



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

East Building, PHH-30  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety Administration**

DOT-SP 20425  
(THIRD REVISION)

**EXPIRATION DATE: 2023-10-31**

(FOR RENEWAL, SEE 49 CFR § 107.109)

1. GRANTEE: Composite Advanced Technologies LLC  
Houston, TX
2. PURPOSE AND LIMITATION:
  - a. This special permit authorizes the manufacture, marking, sale, and use of a non-DOT specification, fully wrapped, fiber reinforced composite gas cylinder with a non-load sharing plastic liner for the purpose of transporting certain non-liquefied compressed gases in commerce. The cylinder meets the requirements of the ISO 11515 Standard except for the design water capacity and working pressure. This special permit provides no relief from the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) other than as specifically stated herein. The most recent revision supersedes all previous revisions.
  - b. The safety analyses performed in the development of this special permit only considered the hazards and risks associated with the transportation in commerce.
  - c. In accordance with 49 CFR 107.107(a) party status may not be granted to a manufacturing permit. These packagings may be used in accordance with 49 CFR 173.22a.
3. REGULATORY SYSTEM AFFECTED: 49 CFR Parts 106, 107 and 171-180.
4. REGULATIONS FROM WHICH EXEMPTED: 49 CFR 173.302(a) in that non-DOT specification cylinders are not authorized, except as specified herein.

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5. BASIS: This special permit is based on the responses to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) show cause letter dated July 16, 2020 and issued in accordance with 49 CFR § 107.121.
6. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (49 CFR 172.101):

<b>Hazardous Materials Description</b>			
<b>Proper Shipping Name</b>	<b>Hazard Class/ Division</b>	<b>Identification Number</b>	<b>Packing Group</b>
Argon, compressed	2.2	UN1006	N/A
Helium, compressed	2.2	UN1046	N/A
Hydrogen, compressed	2.1	UN1049	N/A
Methane, compressed or Natural gas, compressed ( <i>with high methane content</i> )	2.1	UN1971	N/A
Neon, compressed	2.2	UN1065	N/A
Nitrogen, compressed	2.2	UN1066	N/A

7. SAFETY CONTROL MEASURES:

a. PACKAGING: Packaging prescribed is a non-DOT specification fully wrapped fiber reinforced composite gas cylinder with a non-metallic and non-load sharing plastic liner as described in the CATCNG application on file with the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety Approvals and Permits Division (OHMSAPD). Each cylinder must meet all the design and construction requirements for UN composite cylinders specified in § 178.71(1) and in ISO Standard 11515 (Gas Cylinders - Refillable composite reinforced tubes of water capacity between 450L and 3,000L - Design, construction and testing) except as follows:

- (1) § 1 Scope: Cylinders made under this special permit are limited to a minimum water capacity of 450 Liters and a maximum water capacity of 8,964 Liters, and a working pressure up to 275.8 bar (4000 psig), a

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maximum diameter of 47 inches and a maximum length of 415 inches (34.6 feet).

(2) § 8.1 Type approval procedure (General Requirements):

(i) A DOT Independent Inspection Agency (IIA), approved in writing by the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety (AAHMS) in accordance with 49 CFR Part 107, Subpart I, must review the results of design qualification for this special permit. The IIA must either verify that the cylinder design meets the requirements of the special permit based on the testing and other documentation submitted in the application for special permit, or the IIA may require additional testing and/or information from the manufacturer to verify the cylinder design meets all requirements of the special permit. Prior to production of cylinders, the IIA's verification of the cylinder design must be submitted to and acknowledged in writing by the OHMSAPD.

(ii) Prior to any manufacture of cylinders under this special permit, an IIA, approved in writing by the AAHMS, must provide inspections and verifications of all batch testing and all new design qualification testing in accordance with the requirements of this special permit.

(3) § 8.2 Prototype tests: The cylinders required to be manufactured for prototype testing must be representative of production units.

(i) A representative (subscale) prototype cylinder is shorter in length than the production unit, but has the same nominal diameter. It is manufactured using the same materials and manufacturing technique, and has a composite wrapping pattern (same number of strands and layers) that represents an equivalent stress condition when compared to a full-scale prototype.

(ii) The design submission will cover a design family of composite cylinders of the same diameter and pressure with different cylindrical lengths

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and up to 3.144 times the length of the representative composite cylinder and with a water capacity between 450 Liters and 8,964 Liters.

(iii) § 8.2.2, § 8.2.3, § 8.2.4 - The IIA must witness all testing as specified in this special permit (see Table 2).

(4) § 8.4 Design variants: Table 2 shown below may be used in lieu of Table 4 presented in ISO 11515.

Table 2. Qualification tests for cylinder design variants.

QUALIFICATION TESTS FOR CYLINDER DESIGN VARIANCE															
Test	New Design	Length ≤ 50%	Length > 50%	Diameter ≤ 20%	Diameter > 20% or ≤ 50%	Liner thickness > 20%	Liner Material	Equivalent fiber	Test Pressure ≤ 20%	Test pressure > 20% or ≤ 60%	Composite thickness or pattern	Boss-to-liner interface	Equivalent resin matrix	Resin Matrix	Pressure Relief Device
Liner Material							X								
Composite Material								X			X <sup>1</sup>		X <sup>1</sup>		
Hydraulic Pressure	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Cylinder Burst	X	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	X	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	X	X <sup>1</sup>	X	X	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	
Ambient Cycle	X <sup>3</sup>			X <sup>1</sup>	X		X	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	X	X	X <sup>1</sup>			
Environmental Cycle	X													X	
Flaw <sup>1</sup>	X				X									X	
Blunt Impact	X				X <sup>2</sup>					X <sup>1</sup>				X	
High Velocity Impact (gunfire)	X				X <sup>2</sup>					X				X	
Neck Strength	X						X					X		X	
Leak	X				X		X		X	X		X			
Permeability	X				X	X	X			X <sup>1</sup>					

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**QUALIFICATION TESTS FOR CYLINDER DESIGN VARIANCE**

Test	New Design	Length ≤ 50%	Length > 50%	Diameter ≤ 20%	Diameter > 20% or ≤ 50%	Liner thickness > 20%	Liner Material	Equivalent fiber	Test Pressure ≤ 20%	Test pressure > 20% or ≤ 60%	Composite thickness or pattern	Boss-to-liner interface	Equivalent resin matrix	Resin Matrix	Pressure Relief Device
Gas Cycling	X				X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>	X					X <sup>1</sup>			
Fire Resistance	X		X		X					X					X

## Notes:

1. For a new cylinder design with water volume larger than 450 L, a minimum of 1 cylinder may be used for each design change. For a change of boss-liner interface, a leak check of the liner interface is acceptable. The pneumatic cycle test is not required if the boss-liner interface does not change.

2. Test to be conducted for reduction in diameter only.

3. CATCNG elects to increase the minimum number of cycles for the Ambient cycling test from 15,000 to 20,000 cycles.

(5) § 8.5 Type approval test procedures and criteria:

(i) § 8.5.1.1 Hydraulic proof pressure test, Procedure - The test pressure shall be held for at least 30 seconds with the tube isolated from the pressure source, during which time there shall be no decrease in the recorded pressure or evidence of any leakage.

(ii) § 8.5.4.2 Tube burst test, Criteria - The burst pressure,  $p_b$ , or pressure at failure shall not be less than 1.6 times the test pressure,  $p_h$ , of the composite cylinder.

(iii) § 8.5.5 Ambient temperature cycling test - The cylinders must be cycled to an upper pressure value of at least 1.3 times the working pressure.

(iv) § 8.5.6.2 Environmental cycling test, Procedure - The cylinder shall be conditioned at a maximum internal pressure of 10% of the working

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pressure. The minimum pressure during cycling shall not be greater than 10 of the working pressure.

(v) § 8.5.6.3 Environmental cycling test, Criteria - The burst pressure, pb, must be not less than 1.4 times the test pressure, ph.

(vi) § 8.5.11 Leak test - An acceptable procedure for leak testing is to pressurize the cylinder to the working pressure using a suitable fluid. With the cylinder having been pressurized for at least 15 minutes, carefully examine for signs of leakage (e.g., a visual indication or decrease in pressure).

(vii) § 8.5.12 Accelerated stress rupture test - The accelerated stress rupture test is not required for cylinders reinforced with carbon fiber.

(viii) § 8.5.14.2 Gas cycling test, Procedure - One finished cylinder shall be cycle tested according to the following procedure:

(A) Fill the cylinder to be tested with a non-corrosive fluid such as oil, inhibited water or glycol;

(B) Cycle the pressure in the cylinder for 1,000 cycles, between 10% of working pressure and working pressure. The pressure cycling rate shall not exceed 10 cycles per minute;

(C) Release the pressure, drain the fluid, and dry the interior of the cylinder;

(D) Cycle the pressure in the cylinder for 5 cycles, between 10% of working pressure and working pressure, with air, nitrogen or other gas determined by the inspector. The pressure cycling rate must provide at least a 2 hour hold at the high-pressure portion of the cycle;

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(E) Following the high-pressure hold of the final cycle, the gas shall be released freely to atmosphere; and

(F) The cylinder must then be subjected to a leak test. Following the completion of the test liner and the liner/end boss interface must undergo a visual inspection for evidence of any deterioration, such as fatigue cracking or electrostatic discharge.

(ix) § 8.5.14.3 Gas cycling test, Criteria - The cylinder must have no signs of leakage or deterioration.

(x) § 8.5.15 Coatings test - The test is not required for uncoated cylinders.

(xi) § 8.5.16 Salt spray test - This test is not required for plastic lined cylinders.

(xii) § 8.5.17 Acid environmental test - This test is not required for carbon fiber reinforced cylinders.

(xiii) § 8.5.18 Vacuum test - This test is not required if a warning is placed on the cylinder to indicate that use under vacuum conditions is not permitted.

(6) § Batch inspection and testing:

(i) § 9.2.4 Liner batch inspection & testing, Criteria - The supplier's certification of the liner and liner boss properties may serve as verification of compliance with the design specifications.

(ii) § 9.4 Overwrap materials - The supplier's certification of the fiber and resin matrix properties may serve as verification of compliance with the ISO 11515 Standard.

(iii) § 9.5.6 Composite tube, Batch inspection - A batch test shall be conducted on one cylinder out of 5 batches or one year of cylinder production, whichever comes first. A batch here is defined by the production quantity of up to 200 finished

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cylinders successively produced (plus finished cylinders required for destructive testing), of the same nominal diameter, thickness and design. The batch of finished cylinders may contain different batches of liners, fibers and matrix materials.

(iv) § 9.5.7 Batch testing criteria - The burst test may be conducted on the first unit of the batch. After reaching the minimum required burst pressure, and holding for 5 seconds, the cylinder shall have passed the test.

(7) § Cylinder marking: The marking must contain the following:

(i) The DOT special permit number followed by working pressure expressed in bar (psig). The marking may be on a label permanently attached to the outside of the cylinder.

(ii) A serial number and the manufacturer's identification number or a symbol, as obtained from the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, located just below or immediately following the DOT marking. The serial number and the manufacturer's identification number may be placed on the boss provided the markings are accessible for inspection.

(iii) The DOT IIA official mark must be placed near the serial number. The marking must contain the date (month and year) of the initial hydraulic proof pressure test for that cylinder.

(iv) The size of the letters and numbers used must be at least 0.64 cm (1/4 inch) high if space permits.

(v) The following are examples of an authorized format for marking:

DOT-SP AAAAA-YYYY

(Where AAAAA is the special permit number and YYYY is the working pressure)

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CCCC MMI

(Where CCCC is the serial number and MMI is the manufacturer's mark or symbol)

DDD - MM/YY

(Where DDD is the inspector's mark and MM/YY is the month and year of the hydraulic proof pressure test).

Additional markings are permitted, provided the additional markings do not obscure the required marking and are not detrimental to the integrity of the cylinder. Provisions for marking of the required requalification dates and RIN information must be made near the cylinder markings.

b. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH NEW DESIGN

(1) Fire Protection System: Each tube assembly must be equipped with a Fire Protection System (FPS) as described in the CATCNG application on file with OHMSAPD. The FPS has the following characteristics:

(i) The FPS consists of a shape memory alloy wire linkage that is encapsulated in stainless steel tubing. During a fire scenario, the linkage acts as a trigger for the tank assembly's Pressure Relief Device (PRD) and, through mechanical action, activates the PRD to vent the hazardous lading from the system.

(ii) The FPS vent lines direct the released gas upwards and outside of the frame system.

(iii) No additional PRD (e.g., rupture disks) are authorized on the tubes.

(2) High Velocity Impact Test: The cylinders shall be tested in accordance with the ISO Standard 11119-3 (Gas Cylinders - Refillable composite gas cylinders and tubes - Part 3: Fully wrapped fiber reinforced composite gas cylinders and tubes up to 450L with non-load sharing metallic or non-metallic liners) with the exception that the cylinder shall be impacted by a

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12.7-millimeter (0.5 caliber) armor-piercing projectile. If a single projectile will not penetrate the wall, additional rounds may be used.

c. REQUALIFICATION:

(1) Each cylinder must be requalified once every 5 years by a qualified person holding a valid DOT RIN in accordance with § 107.805 as follows:

(i) Perform an external and internal visual inspection in accordance with CGA Pamphlet C6.2 (Guidelines for Visual Inspection and Requalification of Fiber Reinforced High Pressure Cylinders) and a hydraulic proof pressure test at a pressure equal to 1.5 times the marked working pressure. The pressure shall be held for a minimum of 3 minutes without loss of pressure.

(ii) Perform a Non-destructive Examination (NDE) which is approved by OHMSAPD and which may be used in lieu of the internal visual inspection and hydraulic proof pressure test.

(2) Persons who perform inspection and testing of cylinders subject to this special permit must comply with § 180.205(b) and with all the terms and conditions of this special permit and the HMR.

(3) Requalification date (month/year) must be permanently marked on the cylinder as specified in paragraph § 180.213. The marking of the RIN symbol on the cylinder certifies compliance with all the terms and conditions of this special permit.

d. OPERATIONAL CONTROLS:

(1) Cylinders manufactured under this special permit are not authorized for use 15 years from the date of manufacture, except as specified under paragraph 8.a. of this special permit.

(2) A cylinder that has been subjected to fire may not be returned to service.

(3) Cylinders are permanently mounted inside of framing that is designed, marked (approval plate) and approved in accordance with the International

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Convention for Safe Containers (CSC) (49 CFR Part 451) as described in the CATCNG, LLC application on file with the OHMSAPD. The structural framework has been evaluated for transportation of the tubes under this special permit by Finite Element Analysis (FEA) on file with the OHMSAPD. This FEA has demonstrated the framework's ability to protect the tubes from damage due to front, rear, or side impact, and rollover. The frame design meets the following:

(i) All requirements of § 173.301(i);

(ii) All requirements of CGA TB-25; and

(4) Cylinder (tube) handling - The cylinder must be rejected if, during the manufacturing and/or prior to being mounted to the CSC framing, it drops from a height greater than 2 feet.

(5) By no later than January 30, 2023, all tube trailer modules transporting CNG under the terms of these special permits must have tube trailer chassis manufactured with or retrofitted with electronic roll stability control (RSC) systems;

(6) By no later than January 30, 2023, all new trailer modules, (COPV frame assembly and chassis) transporting CNG must have a minimum rigid body Static Rollover Threshold (SRT) of 0.375. The SRT calculation must be submitted to the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety Approvals and Permits Division (OHMSAPD). The SRT calculation must account for susceptibility to rollover accident and the vehicle dynamics during transportation;

(7) By no later than January 30, 2023, the design and fabrication of the external piping and valves connecting the cylinders must be such that damage to a valve or to the piping does not result in discharge of the contents through piping, tubing, valve, or other components. Failure of one or more of these components, must result in no excess flow from a cylinder.

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(8) Fire Protection System (FPS) Inspection - Prior to each filling, the FPS and PRV must be inspected in accordance with the CATCNG Inspection Procedure, on file with the OHMSAPD.

(9) Low pressure/temperature prior to filling - The following procedure must be followed in case the pressure of a cylinder (tube) drops below 100 psig (7 bar) while the ambient temperature is below -12°C: Prior to filling, either the tube must be held at or above 16°C for 8 hours, or the tube must be filled to 435 psig (30 ± 3 bar) from a compressor, and held for one hour, before returning to normal fill procedures.

(10) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that govern the inspection of the Fire Protection System (FPS), gauges, fittings, valves and vent system will be submitted to the OHMSAPD before the deployment of the first production unit. SOP's that govern filling/discharging operations and incident reporting will also be provided in advance of the first unit's deployment.

(11) The container frame is built for a custom over-the-highway trailer chassis integration for road use only.

(12) Cylinder (tube) that exhibits liner bulge - Liner bulge must be corrected as follows:

(i) Pressurize the tube to 10% of its marked working (service) pressure and hold for a minimum of 4 hours. Then depressurize the tube, perform an internal visual inspection and ensure no liner bulge is present.

(ii) If a liner bulge is still present after the first pressurization described above, take the following actions:

(A) Pressurize the tube to its marked working (service) pressure and hold for a minimum of 1 hour. Then depressurize the tube, perform an internal visual inspection and ensure no bulge is present in the liner;

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(B) If a liner bulge is still present after the second pressurization as described above, the tube must be rejected;

(C) For a rejected tube, contact the tube manufacturer to obtain additional guidance in correcting the liner bulge prior to marking the tube.

8. SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

a. Cylinders manufactured under this special permit are authorized for a maximum service life of 15 years from the date of manufacture unless approved by the OHMSAPD for an additional 15 years under a pre-approved service life extension program that must be submitted within 12 months of the date on which the special permit is granted.

b. In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (b) of § 173.22a, persons may use the packaging authorized by this special permit for the transportation of the hazardous materials specified in paragraph 6, only in conformance with the terms of this special permit.

c. A person who is not a holder of this special permit who receives a package covered by this special permit may reoffer it for transportation provided no modification or change is made to the package or its contents and it is reoffered for transportation in conformance with this special permit and the HMR.

d. A current copy of this special permit must be maintained at each facility where the package is offered or reoffered for transportation.

e. Each packaging manufactured under the authority of this special permit must be either (1) marked with the name of the manufacturer and location (city and state) of the facility at which it is manufactured or (2) marked with a registration symbol designated by the Office of Hazardous Materials Special Permits and Approvals for a specific manufacturing facility.

9. MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED: Motor vehicle.

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10. MODAL REQUIREMENTS: A current copy of this special permit must be carried aboard each motor vehicle used to transport packages covered by this special permit.
11. COMPLIANCE: Failure by a person to comply with any of the following may result in suspension or revocation of this special permit and penalties prescribed by the Federal hazardous materials transportation law, 49 U.S.C. 5101 et seq:
  - o All terms and conditions prescribed in this special permit and the Hazardous Materials Regulations, 49 CFR Parts 171-180.
  - o Persons operating under the terms of this special permit must comply with the security plan requirement in Subpart I of Part 172 of the HMR, when applicable.
  - o Registration required by § 107.601 et seq., when applicable.

Each "Hazmat employee", as defined in § 171.8, who performs a function subject to this special permit must receive training on the requirements and conditions of this special permit in addition to the training required by §§ 172.700 through 172.704.

No person may use or apply this special permit, including display of its number, when this special permit has expired or is otherwise no longer in effect.

Under Title VII of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) – "The Hazardous Materials Safety and Security Reauthorization Act of 2005" (Pub. L. 109-59), 119 Stat. 1144 (August 10, 2005), amended the Federal hazardous materials transportation law by changing the term "exemption" to "special permit" and authorizes a special permit to be granted up to two years for new special permits and up to four years for renewals.

12. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Shipments or operations conducted under this special permit are subject to the Hazardous Materials Incident Reporting requirements specified in 49 CFR §§ 171.15 - Immediate notice of certain hazardous materials incidents, and 171.16 - Detailed hazardous materials incident reports. In addition, the grantee(s) of this special permit must notify the Associate Administrator

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for Hazardous Materials Safety, in writing, of any incident involving a package, shipment or operation conducted under terms of this special permit.

Issued in Washington, D.C.:



for William Schoonover  
Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety

Address all inquiries to: Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, East Building PHH-30, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast, Washington, D.C. 20590.

Copies of this special permit may be obtained by accessing the Hazardous Materials Safety Homepage at [http://hazmat.dot.gov/sp\\_app/special\\_permits/spec\\_perm\\_index.htm](http://hazmat.dot.gov/sp_app/special_permits/spec_perm_index.htm). Photo reproductions and legible reductions of this special permit are permitted. Any alteration of this special permit is prohibited.

PO: Andrew Eckenrode