

FROM OPS ADV.BUL.NO.74-9

INTERPRETATIONS OF REGULATIONS

Relates to 49 CFR, 192.753

QUESTION: May the "Avonseal" process be used to meet the requirement of 49 CFR 192.753(a)?

OPS INTERPRETATION: ..."This rule reads as follows: 'Each cast iron caulked bell and spigot joint that is subject to pressures of 25 p.s.i.g. or more must be sealed with mechanical leak clamps.'

"Based on our review of the supportive material which you provided, we have concluded that the 'Avonseal' process would not meet the requirement of §192.753(a). This process does not produce a seal by the use of 'mechanical leak clamps' as the standard requires. The seal produced is primarily due to chemical bonding rather than to mechanical application of forces by a 'clamp' in the ordinary sense of the word.

"We believe, however, that the effect of the 'Avonseal' process in sealing caulked bell and spigot joints may be the [equivalent] or better than 'mechanical leak clamps.' Therefore, we are considering your letter as a petition for rule making to amend §192.753(a) to permit the use of the 'Avonseal' and similar sealing processes. A notice of proposed rule making will be issued and published in the Federal Register to invite comment on the proposed rule change.

"Your letter and supportive material are included in Docket No. Pet. 74-11. Please refer to this number in any future communication on the matter."