

bushings and sleeves from the beam, (2) the overweight cargo, and (3) the presence of the minor depression in the road.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On March 15, 1974, as a result of the Board's investigation of this accident, the National Transportation Safety Board issued three recommendations to the Federal Highway Administration. (See Appendix E.) By letter of August 23, 1974, the FHWA advised that these recommendations were under study by the BMCS/FHWA.

The Safety Board further recommends that:

1. The American Trucking Association, Inc., and the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association publicize the significance of proper vehicle maintenance and repair procedures with particular emphasis on the importance of not using heat of any kind in those areas where heat may adversely alter the strength characteristics of structural components. (Recommendation H-74-31)
2. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts increase their enforcement of the motor vehicle gross weight regulations presently on its statutes. (Recommendation H-74-32)
3. The Office of Hazardous Materials (Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation) and the Bureau of Motor Carrier Safety (Federal Highway Administration) review 49 CFR 178.340 to determine if the regulation as presently written is intended to provide protection against puncture or abrasion of cargo tank walls during predictable accident environments. If this is not the case, consider the necessity of rewriting the regulation to provide this protection. (Recommendation H-74-33)
4. That Hendrickson Manufacturing Company and International Harvester Company revise their respective maintenance and repair manuals and service bulletins to delete any reference to the use of heat-producing (ovens, burning, or cutting torch) methods in the performance of maintenance or repair operations that could in any way effect the strength characteristics of any vehicle component and further, to insure that the manuals and service bulletins carry conspicuous warnings against the use of such heat-producing methods. (Recommendation H-74-34)