

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



**Kennedy Space Center**  
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899

May 3, 2012

Reply to Attn of: **MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD**

**SUBJECT:** Inspections of Pressurized Graphite-Epoxy Composite Overwrapped Pressure Vessels (COPVs)

**SCENARIO:**

Do inspections of pressurized COPVs need to be classified as hazardous operations?

**BACKGROUND:**

During the ground processing of COPVs, detailed close inspections of the hardware may be required. This requires the inspection to be in very close proximity to the vessel. During the inspection the hardware will be in a static state. Also, the hardware will have been and will be transported in this pressurized state. The hardware will be subject to an approved Damage Control Plan.

**CONCLUSION**

Inspections of pressurized COPVs do NOT need to be classified as hazardous operations providing an approved Damage Control Plan is in place and no dynamic operations are taking place.

**APPLICABILITY**

This Memo is only applicable to operations under the jurisdiction of the ISS Ground Safety Review Panel.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Kirkpatrick".

Paul D. Kirkpatrick  
Chairman, ISS Ground Safety Review Panel