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Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods  
(Geneva, 9-13 September 2002)

**PROPOSAL TO CLARIFY THE PARTS "N" and "H" OF THE TANK CODING  
IN 4.3.4.1.1**

**Transmitted by the Government of Germany \*/**

Vacuum valves are in principle only permitted on tanks which are not hermetically closed. Vacuum valves on tanks with test pressures up to 4 bar are only permitted on tanks fitted with a safety valve.

Tanks with a test pressure of 4 bar are either to be closed hermetically or to be fitted with safety valves of certain properties. All tanks with test pressures of less than 4 bar must always be fitted with safety valves, respectively venting devices.

Vacuum valves always have a set pressure of at least -0.21 bar.

Thus there are no 4 bar tanks without safety devices which may be fitted with vacuum valves – except L4BH-tanks. L4BH-tanks normally should be hermetically closed, but are exceptionally allowed to be fitted with a vacuum valve (without safety valve) (see TE 15). This exception may not unconfined be transferred to other tanks of higher quality. All hermetically closed tanks of higher quality without safety devices, which are fitted with vacuum valves (e.g. L10BH-tanks) therefore automatically get the tank code L4BH, if they are to be considered as hermetically closed, otherwise assigned to tank code L10BN.

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\*/ Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT/III/2002/23.

This makes a supplement of the definition "N" in the tank coding in 4.3.4.1.1 necessary.

**Proposal**

N = Tank with a safety valve according to 6.8.2.2.7 or 6.8.2.2.8 and not hermetically closed; these tanks may be fitted with vacuum valves or controlled ventilation (autovent) valves/with vacuum valves.

**or**

**Tank with vacuum valves without safety valve for tanks with a test pressure of at least 4 bar.**

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