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TANKS

Carriage of solids in tanks intended for the carriage of liquids

Transmitted by the Government of France*

SUMMARY

Executive summary: The aim of this document is to authorize the carriage of solids in tanks with a tank code for liquids (L).

Action to be taken: Amend 4.3.4.1.2.

Related documents: RID/ADR, Appendices X and XI/B.1a and B.1b; multilateral agreement M 158.

* Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT-III/2004/20.

Introduction

Difficulties have emerged with the restructured RID/ADR and tank coding as regards the carriage in tanks of certain solids.

For example, tank code SGAV appears in column (12) of Table A of Chapter 3.2 of RID/ADR for sodium chlorate, UN No. 1495. Tank code LGBV appears for sodium chlorate in aqueous solution, UN No. 2428, PG III.

The version of RID/ADR applicable up to 31 December 2002 (RID/ADR 1999) permitted the carriage of solids and their aqueous solutions indifferently in the same tank. In Class 5.1, UN No. 1495 of 11° (b), a solid, and UN No. 2428 of 11° (c), a liquid, were authorized for carriage in the same tanks (see marginal 5.2.4/211 523-212 523), but this has become impossible.

In practice, most tanks are intended for the carriage of liquids and therefore can no longer carry solids although the conditions applicable to the equipment are more restrictive.

For this reason we propose that the carriage of solids in tanks with tank code (L) should be permitted.

Proposal

At the end of the table in 4.3.4.1.2 amend the text to read:

“Hierarchy of tanks

Tanks with tank codes different from those indicated in this table or in Table A of Chapter 3.2 may also be used provided that ~~the first part of the code (L or S) remains unchanged and that any other~~ element (number or letter) of parts 2 1 to 4 of these tank codes correspond to a level of safety at least equivalent to the corresponding element of the tank code indicated in Table A of Chapter 3.2, according to the following increasing order:

Part 1: Types of tanks

S→L

Part 2: Calculation pressure

G→1.5→2.65→4→10→21 bar

Part 3: Openings

A→B→C→D

Part 4: Safety valves/devices

V→F→N→H

For example, a tank with the tank code L10CN is authorized for the carriage of a substance to which the tank code L4BN has been assigned.

NOTE: The hierarchy does not take account of any special provisions for each entry (see 4.3.5 and 6.8.4)."

Justification

Safety implications: No problem since the conditions applicable to tanks are more restrictive.

Feasibility: No problem.

Enforceability: This amendment is necessary in order to authorize practices for which provision was previously made and in order to avoid too much specialization of equipment.
