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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Geneva, 23 - 27 March 2009
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

REPORTS OF INFORMAL WORKING GROUPS

Informal working group on the periodicity of testing of cylinders

Submitted by the Government of Germany on behalf of the Working Group^{1,2}

Background

1. At the September 2008 session of the Joint Meeting, the Government of Germany presented document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2008/13 together with informal document INF.8 containing the report of the meeting of the informal working group on periodicity of testing of cylinders, which met in Muenster, Westphalia (Germany), on 11 and 12 June 2008.

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2006-2010 (ECE/TRANS/166/Add.1, programme activity 02.7 (c)).

² Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2009/6.

2. The report was briefly discussed by the Joint Meeting and it was agreed that the informal working group should continue its work to elaborate a proposal for the extension of the period of testing for welded steel cylinders for liquid petroleum gases (LPG) to harmonise provisions of packing instruction P 200 (10) v (see ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/112, paras. 38 to 40).

Information

3. The informal working group met again on 16 and 17 December 2008 in Brussels (Belgium), hosted by the European Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association (AEGPL). Delegates from Belgium, France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom and from AEGPL and the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA) attended the meeting.

4. The informal working group achieved a solution on the general provisions, the technical requirements to be applied to the welded steel cylinders for LPG, the operational provisions to be fulfilled by owners and filling centres and the conditions for the periodic inspection to be carried out in connection with the authorisation of a 15 year interval. In this respect, a text for the proposal to amend RID/ADR was agreed.

5. Requirements for valves to be fitted for a 15 year interval were discussed, including questions whether to permit refurbished or inspected valves to be refitted. Furthermore, there was general agreement that a marking should be required to distinguish the 15 year approved cylinders following the proposed new system from others having been granted a 15 year interval on a national level. Transitional provisions and the most appropriate way to include the new or amended provisions in RID/ADR still need to be developed.

6. To finish technical discussions and to work out the concrete wording of the proposal on these issues, the Working Group agreed to hold another meeting on 9 and 10 March 2009 in Germany.

7. During its deliberations, the informal working group found out that it would also be reasonable to apply some of the provisions required for the 15 year interval to cylinders with a 10 year testing interval as they reflect good industry practice. It was agreed to list these provisions separately and to present them to the Joint Meeting for decision on further action as appropriate.

8. EIGA showed interest to discuss an extension to a 15 year interval also for other types of metal cylinders for certain types of gases (e.g. non toxic, non corrosive gases). The informal working group took note of this intention, but suggested that EIGA should first submit a detailed document to the Joint Meeting, including data for justification; most participants of the working group indicated their interest to be involved in any further work on the issue.

9. The informal working group agreed to submit this document to the Joint Meeting in March 2008 for information. The result of the meeting of the working group in March would be communicated through an informal document. The proposal could then finally be submitted to the Joint Meeting in September 2009 for adoption.

Action to be taken

10. The Joint Meeting is invited to take note of the report of the Working Group and the progress made.
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