

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bern, 22–26 March 2010

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Reports of informal working groups

Working group on periodicity of testing of cylinders

Submitted by Germany on behalf of the working group

**This informal document is related to document OTIF/RID/RC/2009/22
(ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2009/22)**

Introduction

1. By document OTIF/RID/RC/2009/22 (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2009/22) the Joint Meeting had been informed about the meeting of the informal working group on periodicity of testing of cylinders held in Potsdam on 9 and 10 of March 2009 about the progress made and proposals had been presented for a harmonised system for granting a 15 years interval for periodic inspection of welded steel cylinders for LPG. The proposal was adopted by the Joint Meeting with minor amendments and the new provisions in chapter 4.1, Packing Instruction P 200, Paragraphs 10 and 12, will enter into force on 1st of January 2011.

2. However, as listed in Annex II of document ...2009/22 there were some technical issues remaining, which were discovered by the working group and could not be solved in that meeting. The Joint Meeting took note and encouraged the working group to continue its work and come up with proposals as appropriate (see document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC1/116, Report of the Joint Meeting RID/ADR/ADN, September 2009, paras. 31 to 37; mandate of the group: see par. 33).

Information

3. The informal working group met again on 2 and 3 of February 2010 in Munich (Germany). The meeting was hosted by the Linde Gas AG and chaired by Gregor Oberreuter of the Federal Ministry for Transport, Construction and Urban Affairs (BMVBS, Germany).

Discussion

4. The group discussed the following outstanding technical issues:
 - (a) Scope of P 200 (12) as applicable from 1 January 2011 (extension of P 200 (12) to refillable welded steel cylinders for flammable gases other than LPG and to other types of cylinders for LPG).
 - (b) Further issues left to the working group.
 - (i) Issues concerning LPG;
 - Definition of LPG, including consequential amendments;
 - Filling only LPG of high quality in cylinders;
 - 15 years interval for other types of cylinders for LPG.
 - (ii) Issues concerning pressure receptacles in general;
 - Require filling centres to operate a documented quality system;
 - Require owners/operators to send cylinders only to filling centres operating a documented quality system;
 - Use and refitting of refurbished or inspected valves;
 - Obligation for owners/operators to investigate failures of pressure receptacles;
 - (c) Next steps
 - (iii) Information to the Joint Meeting RID/ADR/ADN (March 2010)
 - (iv) Further work (meeting? corresponding?)

Results

5. All outstanding issues have been discussed and agreement was achieved to propose amendments for RID/ADR on points (b) (i), two first bullets, and (b) (ii), third bullet. Concerning all other points, the working group was of the view that at present no amendment should be proposed.

6. As the time between the meeting in Munich and the start of the session of the Joint Meeting on 22 March 2009 is rather short, final editorial work on the minutes of the meeting, the proposals for amendment and on the document to be submitted could not be finished and will be done by correspondence. The working group will submit its proposal in a formal document for the session of the Joint Meeting in September 2010.

Future work

7. Once the proposal will be submitted to the Joint Meeting for its session in September 2010, the working group has finished the tasks given and envisages no further activity.

Proposal

8. The Joint Meeting is invited to take note of the progress made and to ask the informal working group to submit its proposal as formal document in due course for the session of the Joint Meeting in September 2010.