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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, 13–23 September 2011
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Tanks

Rules on the modification and reconstruction of tanks whose design type approvals have expired or been withdrawn

Proposal submitted by the International Union of Private Wagons (UIP)^{1,2}

Background

1. At the 49th session of the RID Committee of Experts, UIP submitted informal document INF.3 in which it referred to possible problems with the alteration and reconstruction of tanks whose design type approval has expired or been withdrawn. Following the entry into force of relevant rules on the design type approval in Chapters 1.8 and 6.8 of RID/ADR, the question arises of how to proceed in future with the reconstruction of such tanks.
2. As this also affects ADR, the RID Committee of Experts pointed out that this issue should first be looked at in the Joint Meeting's working group on tanks. UIP was asked to prepare a proposal.
3. The working group on tanks discussed the relevant document, ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2011/23 (OTIF/RID/RC/2011/23), at the Joint Meeting in spring 2011. The result of the discussion was that UIP was asked to submit a revised proposal to the autumn 2011 session of the Joint Meeting, taking into account the outcome of the discussions.

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2010–2014 (ECE/TRANS/208, para.106, ECE/TRANS/2010/8, programme activity 02.7 (c)).

² Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2011/38.

Proposal

4. Current 6.8.2.3.3 becomes 6.8.2.3.4.
5. The new 6.8.2.3.3 should read as follows:

"6.8.2.3.3 In case of reconstruction or alteration of tanks with existing design type approvals, the test and inspection are limited to the parts of the tank that have been altered, including the equipment. The alteration shall meet the provisions of RID/ADR applicable at the time. For all parts of the tank and equipment not affected by the alteration, the documentation of the initial type remains fully valid.

Reconstructions or alterations may apply to individual tanks or to all tanks of a design type approval.

A certificate approving the reconstruction and alterations shall always be issued and kept together with the tank documentation.

In case of an alteration to tanks with a design type approval that has expired or been withdrawn at the time of the alteration or to a design type approval that has expired or been withdrawn at the time of the alteration, with the authorisation of a competent authority or of a body designated by this authority, the alteration may be made to existing tanks".
6. If this proposal is adopted, 1.8.7.2.4 would have to be amended accordingly.

Justification

7. Adopting the proposal would ensure that
 - (a) The alteration/reconstruction of tanks would meet the provisions of RID/ADR applicable at the time;
 - (b) It would also be possible to alter/reconstruct tanks after expiry of the ten year period of validity of a design type approval or after it has been withdrawn.
8. From UIP's point of view, the tank documentation prescribed in RID/ADR constitutes an extensive basis for assessing tanks and any planned alterations or reconstructions. Therefore, in UIP's view, it is not necessary that the authority which was competent at the time a design type approval was issued must also issue the certificates attesting the alterations/reconstructions. It is therefore proposed to create the opportunity for other authorities to be able to issue these certificates.
9. As a result, this would ensure the substantial inclusion of the usual procedures for rules on tank alterations and reconstructions that have been in use up to 31 December 2010, albeit they are managed slightly differently in different States.