

Request for information on the pressure relief device for CNG (Regulation No. 110)

I. Introduction

In October 2012 a vehicle of category M₃ class II caught fire in the cooling system. The vehicle was equipped with 4 CNG containers on the roof for the propulsion of the engine. The fire extended to the passengers compartment and finally the whole vehicle was in fire. Due to the heat the pressure relief devices opened and caused a huge horizontal flame with a length of about 15 meters during several minutes. A video of the situation is available via the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AF2sTtoHKnQ>.

The incident happened in an open area without any buildings in the vicinity of the vehicle and did not cause any casualty or injury. The situation could be completely different under other circumstances like in a narrow street with many pedestrians.

II. Request for information

The accident is under study by the National Safety Board and in the mean time the Netherlands would like to know whether other countries have experiences with fires in CNG vehicles and what measures have been taken to reduce the potential risks.

Do you have in your national legislation any additional requirements for CNG driven vehicles like smoke detectors, (automatic) fire extinguishers, provisions on the burning behavior of used materials, direction of the opening of the pressure relief devices or any other measures?

Any information can be sent to hjongenelen@rdw.nl.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.
