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Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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

Geneva, 11-15 September 2006
Agenda item 2

TANKS*

Intervals between tests

Transmitted by the Government of Belgium

Introduction

1. The joint meeting held in March 2006 introduced amendments to 6.8.2.4.3. During the discussion it was noted that the new texts could, if interpreted strictly, pose problems in respect of the number of intermediate inspections required. The representative of Belgium undertook to submit a proposal to clarify the situation (see paragraph 15 of report ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/102).

* Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT-III/2006/20.

Proposal

- “6.8.2.4.3 Shells and their equipment shall undergo intermediate inspections four years/three years/two and a half years after the initial inspection and each periodic inspection.

These intermediate inspections may be performed within three months of the specified date. An exceptional inspection and test shall be performed regardless of the date of the last periodic inspection and test, when necessary according to 6.8.2.4.4.

These intermediate inspections shall include a leakproofness test of the shell with its equipment and check of the satisfactory operation of all the equipment. For this purpose the tank shall be subjected to an effective internal pressure at least equal to the maximum working pressure. For tanks intended for the carriage of liquids or solids in the granular or powdery state, when a gas is used for the leakproofness test it shall be carried out at a pressure at least equal to 25% of the maximum working pressure. In all cases, it shall not be less than 20 kPa (0.2 bar) (gauge pressure).

For tanks equipped with venting systems and a safety device to prevent the contents spilling out if the tank overturns, the pressure test shall be equal to the static pressure of the filling substance.

The leakproofness test shall be carried out separately on each compartment of compartmented shells.”

Justification

2. The French version of the beginning of the new text of 6.8.2.4.3 differs from the English version (“*tous les quatre ans/trois ans/deux ans et demi*”, or “every four years/three years/two and a half years” instead of “at least every four years/three years/two and a half years”). In the above proposal, Belgium has followed the suggestion that was made during the previous meeting that, for this paragraph, the current text should be based on that used in 6.7.2.19.2, and that the restrictive term “at least” should be replaced with a three-month period in which intermediate tests could be carried out.

3. At the previous meeting, the scheduling of the intermediate tests was linked to the dates of the preceding tests (initial, intermediate and periodic). Accordingly, the word “every”, which implies repetition, has been rendered unnecessary, and could, if the text was interpreted too strictly, even lead to errors regarding the number of intermediate tests to be carried out.

4. The link with preceding intermediate tests does not make sense.
