

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 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN: new proposals

Chapter 3.2: Extension of the application of special provision 653

Transmitted by the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA)

Summary

Executive summary: In the 2011 edition of RID/ADR/AND, special provision 653 shall apply to UN 1066, NITROGEN COMPRESSED in addition to UN 1013 CARBON DIOXIDE.

Action to be taken: Extend application of SP 653 to all gases with classification code 1A.

Related documents: None.

Introduction

1. In the 2011 edition of RID/ADR/ADN special provision 653 shall apply to UN 1066, NITROGEN COMPRESSED in addition to UN 1013 CARBON DIOXIDE. According to SP 653, the carriage of pressure receptacles with a pressure capacity product of a maximum 15 MPa.litre (150 bar. litre) is not subject to the other provisions of RID/ADR/ADN if the conditions specified in SP 653 are fulfilled.

Background

2. Both EIGA members and distributors of small cylinders containing gases with classification code 1A have approached EIGA and asked why SP 653 only applies to carbon dioxide and, in the future, to nitrogen. Exempting small gas cylinders containing for example argon and argon mixtures would facilitate their distribution to final users.

Proposal

3. The proposal is to extend the application of special provision 653 to all gases with classification code 1A. Consequently in the dangerous goods list of chapter 3.2: insert “653” in column (6) for:

- UN 1002 AIR, COMPRESSED
- UN 1006 ARGON, COMPRESSED
- UN 1066 HELIUM, COMPRESSED
- UN 1056 KRYPTON, COMPRESSED
- UN 1065 NEON, COMPRESSED
- UN 1956 COMPRESSED GAS, N.O.S.

4. Amend the fifth indent of SP 653 by adding the above mentioned entries to UN 1013 and UN 1066.

Justification

5. Other gases with classification code 1A, for instance argon, helium, air and mixtures have similar properties to those of nitrogen and as a consequence present no additional risks compared to those of nitrogen. There are no safety reasons to exclude these gases from the application of SP 653.
