

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Item 5(a) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN: pending issues

Definition of LPG

Transmitted by the Government of Switzerland

We have observed contradictions in the definition of LPG adopted by the Joint Meeting at its Autumn 2010 session (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/120, Annex II) as well as in the German translation we have discussed in Erfurt during the Conference of translation and edition of the German ADR.

The actual definitions in each language are the following:

"*Gaz de pétrole liquéfié (GPL)*", un gaz liquéfié à faible pression contenant un ou plusieurs hydrocarbures légers qui sont affectés aux numéros ONU 1011, 1075, 1965, 1969 ou 1978 seulement et qui est principalement constitué de propane, de propène, de butane, des isomères du butane, de butène avec des traces d'autres gaz d'hydrocarbures.

"*Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)*" means a low pressure liquefied gas composed of one or more light hydrocarbons which are assigned to UN Nos. 1011, 1075, 1965, 1969 or 1978 only and which consists mainly of propane, propene, butane, butane isomers, butene with traces of other hydrocarbon gases.

„Flüssiggas (LPG)*: Unter geringem Druck verflüssigtes Gas, das aus einem oder mehreren leichten Kohlenwasserstoffen besteht, die nur der UN-Nummer 1011, 1075, 1965, 1969 oder 1978 zugeordnet sind und das hauptsächlich aus Propan, Propen, Butan, Butan-Isomeren und Buten mit Spuren anderer Kohlenwasserstoffgase besteht.“

One important point is different between French from one side and English and German from the other side, that is that in French the repetition of the “de” in the enumeration of possible gases brings to the conclusion that the main constituent of the LPG is one of the listed gases. The other possible gases are not main constituents of the gas mixture. This seems to us logical. Instead of that, the E/G say that the main constituent of GPL is a mixture of all the listed gases together. This is in German worst because an “und” appears before “Buten”. If only one of the listed gases are not present in the gas, then the mixture is no more a GPL in German and English. This doesn't seem what we wanted to say.

We believe the right meaning is given only by the French enumeration which is like an enumeration with “or” between each element.

The second default of the texts in all languages seems to us that it appears that the traces of other hydrocarbons are only allowed in presence of buten. Not in presence of one or another of the other gases. This seems also not logical.

In order to solve this two difficulties we would propose the following changes in the three languages.

"*Gaz de pétrole liquéfié (GPL)*", un gaz liquéfié à faible pression contenant un ou plusieurs hydrocarbures légers qui sont affectés aux numéros ONU 1011, 1075, 1965, 1969 ou 1978 seulement et qui est principalement constitué de propane, de propène, de butane, des isomères du butane **ou** de butène, avec des traces d'autres gaz d'hydrocarbures.

"*Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)*" means a low pressure liquefied gas composed of one or more light hydrocarbons which are assigned to UN Nos. 1011, 1075, 1965, 1969 or 1978 only and which consists mainly of propane, propene, butane, butane isomers **or** butane, with traces of other hydrocarbon gases.

*„Flüssiggas (LPG)“: Unter geringem Druck verflüssigtes Gas, das aus einem oder mehreren leichten Kohlenwasserstoffen besteht, die ~~mit~~ der UN-Nummer 1011, 1075, 1965, 1969 oder 1978 zugeordnet sind und das hauptsächlich aus Propan, Propen, Butan, Butan-Isomeren ~~und~~ **oder** Buten, mit Spuren anderer Kohlenwasserstoffgase ~~besteht~~.*

We feel that maybe the „ou“ in the French text is superfluous because the enumeration with the “de” in each item already gives this sense of alternative. But maybe the secretariat can better judge of the rightness in French.

Because this definition is supposed to enter in force by 2013 it is important that this question is solved rapidly. We hope the JM can reach a decision on March.
