

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

Geneva, 15–25 September 2015

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Any other business

14 September 2015

Carriage of pressure receptacles approved by the Department of Transportation of the United States of America – Status of work

Transmitted by the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA)

Introduction

Following the spring 2015 session of the Joint Meeting when the European Industrial Gases Association presented ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2015/4 concerning the use of DOT cylinders, EIGA wishes to advise the Joint Meeting of the work carried out since the spring 2015 meeting.

Recap

At the Joint Meeting, EIGA presented ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2015/4. In this paper, two options were proposed concerning the carriage of pressure receptacles approved by the Department of Transportation of the United States of America. The first was to issue a new multilateral agreement to replace MLA 217. The second option was to adopt a transitional provision in section 1.6.2 of RID/ADR.

Prior to EIGA presenting ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2015/4 the expert from the United States made an intervention that suggested a new approach on the subject. In summary the expert of the United States said that to assist the process of adopting text in RID/ADR, consideration could be given to European industry submitting a petition for rulemaking to the United States Department of Transportation. The technical aspects would have to be evaluated by the competent services of DOT, but above all that the proposal had to be the subject of a public hearing. This very helpful suggestion led to considerable debate amongst the delegates. It was felt that this would go a long way to ease future discussions. A more detailed report of the discussions is given in the report of the meeting in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/138

EIGA agreed to lead this process and to report back at the autumn Joint Meeting.

Progress since March 2015

EIGA has had extensive discussions with a number of interested parties, but primarily with the Compressed Gas Association, CGA, in America. CGA is EIGA's counterpart in the United States and EIGA and CGA do share a number of members. In discussions with

CGA it became apparent that any application for a special petition should be made by both industry associations.

The status is that there is support from the EIGA membership for this approach and that the initial phases of the CGA work process are complete.

The next stage is for the two Associations to prepare the special petition. We believe that this will take of the order of six months as there is a requirement to consult association members at certain stages.

Timing and action to cover period between MLA 237 expiring and new text possibly being adopted in RID/ADR/ADN

It would be hoped that sometime in mid-2016 a submission will be made to the United States Department of Transportation. Neither EIGA nor CGA can give a commitment to the timeframe for the review by the Department of Transportation.

As MLA 237 expires on 1st June 2016 there will be a period when the situation is not covered.

For this reason, EIGA is requesting a new multilateral agreement to cover the period from June 2016 to June 2020.
