



Commercial Balloon Operators of Europe

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Propane cylinders for the use in hot air balloons

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Multilateral Special Agreement M 90 expires on the 1st of July 2004. Several thousands of private and commercial balloon operators in Europe with their cylinders may be grounded, although the receptacles are certified for the use in the aircraft balloon.

The problem is not a problem in the signatory member states of M 90 alone, all European countries are affected, because mostly the ADR requirements were not applicable till 2001.

To solve the problem once and for all, we ask for a transitional provision which could be formulated as follows:

1.6.2.1.1

receptacles already in service shall be accepted in traffic so long as

- a) *the use in hot air balloons are accepted;*
- b) *the intervals of the periodic tests prescribed in 6.2.1.6 are observed;*
- c) *the marking and labelling meet the requirements prescribed in 5.2.1, also stating that the use is in hot air balloons only;*
- d) *the main body of the receptacles are provided with an outer water resistant protective layer at least 25 mm thick, made by foam or a similar material.*

There are number arguments for further permit of use and transportation:

- The cylinders are certified as aircraft material;
- The use was stated by the German BAM as "Use without hesitation";
- The number of receptacles are small;
- The operators are all pilots and well trained with the handling and briefed about the dangers of propane gas;
- They will be checked annually by licensed aviation inspectors for leakage, damage and correct function.
- No accidents have occurred due to design and construction.

Thanks a lot for your efforts!

Kind regards

Axel Ockelmann

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