

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON ITS EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION (25-27 October 2006)

Paragraphs 56 to 61 - Excerpt from ECE/TRANS/WP.15/190

Application of subsection 1.8.5.2 (Accident reports)

Document: ECE/TRANS/WP.15/2006/17 (Belgium)

56. The Working Party took note of the accident report submitted by Belgium under 1.8.5.2 concerning the overturning of a tank container transporting bromine, which had resulted in the leakage of 6,000 litres of the liquid, the evacuation of a significant number of persons, the closure of the road network and the complete stoppage of traffic in the port of Anvers.

57. The representative of IRU said that one cause of the accident not referred to in the report was the deficiency of the tank container itself, particularly with regard to the fastening of the tank to the frame.

58. The Working Party noted the measures proposed to improve safety: use of more stable semi-trailer container platforms (maximum height \pm 1.10 m, three axles), and special training for drivers transporting high-density liquids.

59. It was pointed out that equipping vehicles with electronic stability programme (ESP) devices could prevent such accidents, although the representative of IRU questioned their effectiveness for trailers and semi-trailers. The Working Party was informed that the Working Party on Brakes and Running Gear (GRRF) of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) was working on more effective electronic vehicle stability control (EVSC) systems; the outcome of those discussions would be reported at the next session (see also ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/2006/34 and ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/60, paragraphs 38-40).

60. The representative of Spain noted the work under way on protection of manhole cover assemblies of tank vehicles, and expressed the view that the use of bolted covers for tanks transporting such dangerous substances should make it possible to prevent leaks in the event of overturning.

61. The secretariat was requested to provide a special section on its website for accident reports transmitted under 1.8.5.2.
