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PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO RID /ADR / ADN

Related document: ECE-TRANS-WP15-AC1-2008-7 (France)

Safety of «gas cartridges»

Transmitted by the European Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association (AEGPL)

SUMMARY

Executive summary: The need to address the issue of end-user safety at using as regards the use of gas cartridges is clear and the corresponding CEN TC has already begun to work on that issue. AEGPL strongly calls for the recognition of the CEN as the most competent and most appropriate statutory body.

Action to be taken: Wait the work of the CEN experts to take a decision on that issue.

Related document: ECE-TRANS-WP15-AC1-2008-7 (France).

LPG industry approach

- ❑ The movement to modify the norm EN417 (norm pertaining to the construction of gas cartridges) is a reasonable initiative stemming from a legitimate concern over end-user safety at using. In keeping with its general commitment to ensuring the safest possible use of LPG, AEGPL shares and strongly supports the position that steps need to be taken to ensure a high standard of safety for gas cartridge users.
- ❑ In parallel, AEGPL stresses the need to ensure that any regulatory decisions on this matter are taken by the most appropriate competent authority. Seen from this perspective, ADR does not appear to be a suitable framework in which to address this issue.

- ❑ According to the foreword of its most recent edition (in effect as of 1 January 2007), the ADR agreement concerns "the international carriage of dangerous goods by road." Moreover, the text states that the objective of this agreement is to "increase the safety of international transport by road." The inadequate use of gas cartridges being unrelated to road safety, it must be dealt with within the framework of a more appropriate regulatory body, whose more targeted expertise will allow it to develop a norm at once more effective and more appropriate.
- ❑ In this context, the AEGPL notes with satisfaction that a technical committee inside the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) is already in a five-year plan revision process for the modification of standard EN417. This technical committee's members include many of Europe's leading experts on LPG, making it well placed to propose the necessary modifications. Any eventual decision on the matter would have to be approved by a majority of CEN members (national governments), a provision that would strongly reinforce the legitimacy of the measure.
- ❑ Beyond the question of competency, AEGPL also wishes to stress that ADR general content for the period 2009-2011 is already established. Conversely, the revision process within the CEN has already begun, with a view to delivering a final text by 2010.

Conclusion

The need to address the issue of end-user safety at using as regards the use of gas cartridges is clear. In order to ensure that the modification of the relevant standard is undertaken in an effective and timely fashion, AEGPL strongly calls for the recognition of the CEN as the most competent and most appropriate statutory body.

AEGPL is confident that the Industry Experts at CEN will come up with a range of technical and procedural methods.
