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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposal for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN: new proposals

Proposal to add a footnote in chapter 3.3 to define "breathing apparatus"

Transmitted by the Government of Sweden^{1, 2}

Summary

Executive summary: To avoid misunderstanding and confusion, it is necessary to add a definition of the expression "breathing apparatus" in chapter 3.3, special provision 655.

Decision to be taken: Add a new footnote according to this proposal.

Background

1. At the Joint Meeting in March 2008, it was decided to add a new special provision 655 in RID/ADR 2011, allowing transport of gas cylinders containing UN No. 1002, approved in accordance with Directive 97/23/EC concerning pressure equipment (PED) and used for breathing apparatus.
2. At the Joint Meeting in March 2010, it was decided to add special provision 655 for UN Nos. 1072, 1956 and 3156.

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2010–2014 (ECE/TRANS/208, para.106, ECE/TRANS/2010/8, programme activity 02.7 (c)).

² Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2011/7.

Introduction

3. Sweden considers that breathing apparatus, in meaning of special provision 655, is intended to be used for providing breathable air in a harmful or lethal atmosphere. The expression "breathing apparatus" should therefore not be applicable for breathing equipment used for medical purposes.

4. Gas cylinders used for medical purposes shall fulfil the requirements according to Directive 1999/36/EC on transportable pressure equipment (TPED). Thus they are not covered by Directive 97/23/EC (PED) and therefore, special provision 655 is not applicable.

5. No clarification regarding what equipment that is intended is given in special provision 655. This might cause a risk for misunderstandings and confusion among owners of gas cylinders.

Proposal

6. In special provision 655, add a reference to footnote 4 after "breathing apparatus".

The text of the footnote shall read as follows: "A self contained system for providing of breathable air in an immediate danger to life and health atmosphere."

Justification

7. The purpose of this proposal is to clarify what kind of equipment is covered by special provision 655.

8. In the new Directive 2010/35/EU on transportable pressure equipment (TPED), which shall be incorporated not later than 30 June 2011, gas cylinders intended for breathing apparatus are excluded. The proposed text would clarify what kind of equipment that is covered by TPED.

Safety implications

9. This proposal does not result in any safety implications.

Feasibility

10. This proposal does not result in any problems concerning implementation.
