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Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Programme or work for the biennium 2013–2014

Applicability of the Model Regulations to the transport of dangerous goods in road tank-vehicles

Note by the secretariat¹

Background

1. The secretariat has received a request for clarification from Peru concerning the applicability of the Model Regulations to the transport of dangerous goods in road tank-vehicles.
2. In the context of the Model Regulations road tank-vehicles fall within the definition of “tank” and are specifically excluded from the definition of “portable tank”.
3. However, the provisions and requirements relating to the use, design, construction, inspection and testing of tanks (Chapters 4.2 and 6.7), as well as the instructions and special provisions listed in columns 10 and 11 of the Dangerous Goods List, only refer to “portable tanks”.
4. Since road tank-vehicles are excluded from the definition of portable tanks, Peruvian competent authorities initially understood that these provisions did not apply to road tank-vehicles and therefore concluded that the Model Regulations could not be used as the basis for the national legislation on the transport of dangerous goods by road.

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2011-2012 approved by the Committee at its fifth session (refer to ST/SRG/AC.10/C.3/76, para. 116 and ST/SRG/AC.10/38, para. 16).

5. Although the Model Regulations are mainly intended to cover aspects of transport of dangerous goods that concern all modes of transport, the secretariat notes that regional legal instruments such as RID, ADR and ADN contain provisions for tanks which are fitted to road vehicles or railway wagons which are, to a large extent, harmonized (Chapters 4.3 and 6.8 of RID and ADR). The IMDG Code itself contains requirements applicable to road tank vehicles in its Chapter 6.8 (IMO types 4, 6 and 8) which show that the provisions of Chapter 6.7 for portable tanks can also be relevant for the construction and approval of tanks fitted to road vehicles.

6. The secretariat notes that the ever increasing number of road vehicles in developing countries entails a parallel increase of road tank vehicles used for fuel distribution and that many accidents, sometimes dramatic, occur every year. A non-exhaustive list is given in the annex. The Model Regulations do not provide any guidance on how to regulate such traffic other than by placarding or documentation provisions.

7. The Sub-Committee may wish to consider whether it would be relevant to work on this issue in the next biennium.

Annex

[English only]

Accidents involving liquified petroleum gas (LPG) or liquid fuel road tankers in developing countries (non-exhaustive list)

2012

Country	Event	Date	Place	Description
India	An overloaded cab collided with an oil tanker. A minor blast took place, the cab caught fire.	3/01/2012	Gurgaon, Haryana.	Vehicular traffic was disrupted, owing to the severe chaos on the highway. 5 people were killed and 20 injured.
Guinea	Road tanker caught fire and exploded.	3/02/2012	Dixinn	Several vehicles caught fire.
Nigeria	Petrol Tanker Crashed.	9/06/2012	Lagos-Ibadan Expressway	Leakage of petrol from the tanker.
Kenya	A fuel tanker was going down a slope when the rear tyres burst, rolling several times then bursting into flames.	15/06/2012	Malaba/Bungoma highway in Bungoma county.	1 person was killed.
Philippines	Road tanker overturned caught fire and exploded.	26/06/2012	Parañaque city	1 person injured.
China	A taxi crashed into a tanker.	30/06/2012	A highway in Guangan city.	8 people were killed.
Nigeria	Road tanker overturns and later explodes.	12/07/2012	Okobie	Around 200 people were killed and 75 injured.
India	A gas tanker exploded due to leakage.	27/07/2012	Surajpur, Dadri area.	Two people were killed and 20 injured.
India	A tanker carrying liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) overturned after hitting a divider and caught fire.	27/08/2012	National highway in the Chala area.	Two people were killed and 41 injured. Fire engulfed five houses and some shops nearby.

China	A double-decker sleeper bus and a tanker loaded with highly-flammable methanol collided.	26/08/2012	Northern China	36 people were killed.
India	A tanker carrying 30 tonne of inflammable isobutane was hit by a truck.	6/09/2012	Mumbai-Pune Expressway	Massive leakage from the tanker.
Iran	Road tanker carrying 18.000 litres of petrol exploded.	11/09/2012	Bam-Zahedan route, 110 km southeast of Teheran.	70 people were killed.
Afghanistan	A passenger bus collided with a fuel tanker.	14/09/2012	Kabul-Kandahar highway.	51 people were killed and several others were injured.

2011

Country	Event	Date	Place	Description
Pakistan	A passenger bus collided with an oil tanker.	23/01/2011	Sindh province.	32 people were killed.
Kenya	Road tanker carrying petrol exploded.	01/02/2011	Molo city, 150 km northwest of Nairobi.	More than 110 people were killed and more than 150 injured.
India	Road-tanker carrying LPG from Kanpur to Mathura refinery overturned on NH-2 after hitting barrier, tanker exploded.	4/02/2011	Tundla UP.	Damage to roadside tea stalls, 3 people injured.
India	Empty LPG tanker exploded in industrial state while welder and mechanics were working on the vehicle;	9/02/2011	Dahej, Gujarat	2 men were killed, two others injured; electric poles blow down, cutting power to port for five hours.
Pakistan	A speeding passenger van crashed into an oil tanker.	28/02/2011	Lahore-Sargodha road.	Seven people were killed and 11 were wounded, four of them critically.
India	Bullet tanker enroute Mangalore to Bangalore overturned in Bhaskaran on NH-48.	1/03/2011	Odakkur TAMIL NADU	Road was closed for 10 hours; gas leaked from tanker; rest of cargo transferred to second tanker.
India	Road-tanker carrying LPG from Agra to Firozabad suffered leak of cargo while on NH-2.	4/03/2011	Tundla UP.	6 people were injured.
Nigeria	Road tanker overturned and caught fire.	2/04/2011	Close to Narabi.	Around 50 people were killed. Several vehicles caught fire.

South Africa	A truck crashed into a concrete barrier, the driver claimed to have lost control of the vehicle when the brakes failed.	5/04/2011	R21 south near the Griffiths Road.	Leakage of petrol from the tanker.
Venezuela	Road tanker overturns and later explodes.	29/12/2011	Caracas-Los Teques Route	14 people were killed and 16 injured. Several vehicles caught fire.
United Arab Emirates	A petrol tanker overturned after the tanker driver veered to the left lane of the road, leading to a heavy collision with 2 cars.	26/04/2011	Emirates Road, Ajman.	Two people died and another two injured.

2010

Country	Event	Date	Place	Description
Congo	A fuel tanker overturned and exploded.	02/07/2010	Sange, in South Kivu province.	Resulting fire devastated the whole town. 230 people were killed and 196 injured.

2009

Country	Event	Date	Place	Description
Pakistan	A wagon collided with an oil tanker.	6/10/2009	Islamabad	9 people were killed and 7 were wounded.

2008

Country	Event	Date	Place	Description
China	A regular route bus ran into the rear of a tank truck, triggering a fire and explosion that ignited other vehicles.	18/02/2008	The Beijing–Zhuhai expressway.	15 people were killed and 25 injured.
Nigeria	A fuel tanker carrying 33.000 litres of gasoline exploded.	26/07/2008	Lagos	More than 10 people were killed.

2007

Country	Event	Date	Place	Description
Philippines	A tanker carrying liquefied carbon dioxide crashes overturns and explodes.	2/02/2007	Tigbao	50 people were killed and 65 injured.
Nigeria	A truck carrying 8,800 gallons of fuel exploded and caught fire.	28/03/2007	Kagarko, Kaduna	80 people were killed and 100+ injured.
India	An oil tanker, a bus and a truck collided.	14/05/2007	Ahmedabad	At least 30 people were killed.

Mexico	A tractor-trailer carrying ammonium nitrate overturned and caught fire	9/09/2007	Monclova	30 people were killed and 150+ injured.
India	A tanker lorry carrying LPG capsized and burst into flames	22/09/2007	Udupi (Karnataka)	Two people died.