

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

12 March 2013

Bern, 18–22 March 2013

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Reports of informal working groups

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Informal working group on the periodicity of testing of cylinders

Submitted by the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA) on behalf of the Working Group

Background

1. At the Joint Meeting held in Bern in March 2012, EIGA presented document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2012/14 requesting the formation of an informal intersessional Working Group to consider the proposal to extend the interval for the periodic inspection for certain gases of Class 2. The Joint Meeting agreed to the formation of an informal intersessional Working Group under the Chairmanship of Germany.
2. At the Joint Meeting in September 2012, EIGA submitted informal paper 27 reporting upon the work so far and requesting the agreement of the Joint Meeting to continue with the work. Following the agreement of the Joint Meeting, two further meetings of the intersessional Working Group were arranged.
3. Consequently, the third and fourth meetings of the informal intersessional Working Group were held in December 2012 and February 2013.
4. The participants now include the Competent Authorities of France, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. In addition there were representatives from the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM), the British Compressed Gases Association (BCGA), European Cylinder Makers Association (ECMA), the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA) and German Industrial Gases Association (IGV.).
5. The fourth meeting was held in Munich, Germany on 21-22.02.2013 and included a visit to an industrial gases filling facility that fills many of the products under consideration for an extended test interval in P200.
6. The progress on work of the intersessional working group can be summarized as follows: During the 1st session the discussion led to a list of fourteen action items which needed further clarification and examination. These items concerned mainly:
 - The detailed review of the testing data collected;
 - The requirements for the quality assurance system;

- The reference to standards for cylinders, valves and filling procedures. In particular should there be a requirement for a compulsory application of the ISO standard on Residual Pressure Valves included in the RID/ADR?
- The type of cylinders and the gases considered for an extended period of 15 years;
- The qualification requirements for cylinders suitable for an extended test period;
- The filling procedures with a particular attention to the “pre-fill check”.

7. While responses and clarifications brought by the gas industry to some of the questions raised made it possible for the working group to reach a conclusion, other questions still remained open and will be discussed during the following session. In particular the result of a risk analysis set forth by the gas industry showing a higher level of safety of the proposed provisions shall be looked at in more detail.

8. The next Intersessional Working Group is planned for 2nd and 3rd May 2013 to be held in Paris. It is intended that the final proposal will be concluded at this meeting for a formal paper to be submitted to the Joint Meeting in September 2013.
