
Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee**

7 January 2014

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) (ADN Safety Committee)****Twenty-fourth session**

Geneva, 27-31 January 2014

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to the ADN:**Informal working groups**

Standardization of LNG loading/unloading procedures**Transmitted by the Governments of the Netherlands and Switzerland****I. Introduction**

1. The ADN Safety Committee adopted the proposal for the carriage of LNG on inland waterways during its twenty-third session (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/48). This proposal does not include technical requirements for the loading and unloading procedure for liquefied natural gas (LNG).
2. The delegations of the Netherlands and Switzerland, however, have concluded that such technical requirements would be preferable. Most of the accidents occur during loading and unloading, and specifically when the shore connection is connected or disconnected. The development of a standard loading/unloading procedure with a standard coupling for LNG will have a significant positive effect on the safety for the ship and her crew, and improve ease of handling.

II. Project proposal

3. Based on the observations above the delegations of the Netherlands and Switzerland (Port of Switzerland as an LNG Masterplan project partner) have written a proposal for a project which will be part of the "LNG Masterplan for Rhine-Main-Danube".

This project aims to provide a harmonized standard for the LNG loading and unloading procedure, which will be both safe and suitable for normal operational procedures.

4. After the determination of such a standard procedure, it has to be made legally binding to both ship and shore. The ADN is the appropriate means to accomplish this.

III. LNG Masterplan for Rhine-Main-Danube

5. The “LNG Masterplan for Rhine-Main-Danube” is a major development on the use of LNG in inland navigation. The LNG Masterplan is a project initiative filed in the European TEN-T Initiative.
6. It aims to provide a European strategy and pilot projects for LNG as both fuel for inland vessels, and as cargo being transported on waterways and distributed via inland ports. The deliverables of the LNG Masterplan will be a set of feasibility studies, technical concepts, technical trials and pilot projects of vessels and terminals.
7. More than 30 ports, private businesses and organizations from 12 EU Member States are participating in the LNG Masterplan. For example the (Inland) ports of Antwerp, Switzerland, Hamburg and Rotterdam are members. The LNG Masterplan will be completed in 2015.

IV. Proposal

8. It is suggested that the ADN Safety Committee establishes an Informal Working group “LNG loading / unloading”. This group should prepare an appropriate standardised procedure for loading and unloading of LNG in cooperation with (the participants of) the TEN-T-project “LNG-Masterplan Rhine-Main-Danube”.
 9. Based on the results, it should suggest appropriate amendments to the Regulations annexed to the ADN 2017 for a standardised procedure for loading and unloading of LNG. The Dutch delegation volunteers to take the lead of this working group.
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