

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
(Twentieth session, 3-12 December 2001, agenda item 2)

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR THE TRANSPORT OF GASES

Periodic inspection and test of UN certified pressure receptacles

Transmitted by the expert from Canada

The expert from Canada would like to ask the Sub-Committee and the Working Group on the Transport of Gases to discuss the need for more detailed requirements for the periodic inspection and test of UN certified pressure receptacles.

In the last biennium, detailed requirements were developed for the manufacture of UN certified pressure receptacles to ensure the consistency and traceability of the approvals in this regard by different competent authorities. A conformity assessment system and approval framework was specified in 6.2.2.5 of the Model Regulations, 12th revised edition. Certification and manufacturing marking requirements were also specified in 6.2.2.6 of the Model Regulations, 12th revised edition.

It is the opinion of the expert from Canada that similar requirements should be considered for the periodic inspection and test of UN certified pressure receptacles, although perhaps in lesser detail than the manufacturing requirements.

The following is proposed for discussion:

1. Periodic inspection and test facilities

6.2.1.5.1 currently reads:

“Refillable pressure receptacles, other than cryogenic receptacles, shall be subjected to periodic inspections and tests under the supervision of an inspection body, in accordance with the following:

NOTE 1: With the agreement of the inspection body, the hydraulic pressure test may be replaced by a test using a gas, where such an operation does not entail any danger.”

It is proposed that 6.2.1.5.1 be amended as follows:

“Refillable pressure receptacles, other than cryogenic receptacles, shall be subjected to periodic inspections and tests ~~under the supervision of an inspection body~~ by a facility authorised by the competent authority, in accordance with the following:

NOTE 1: With the agreement of the ~~inspection body~~ competent authority, the hydraulic pressure test may be replaced by a test using a gas, where such an operation does not entail any danger.”

(Facilities performing periodic inspections and tests are not necessarily under the supervision of an inspection body meeting the requirements for inspection bodies in 6.2.1.8 and 6.2.2.5.2.4 to 6.2.2.5.2.5.)

2. Marking requirements

6.2.2.6.6 currently reads:

“In addition to the preceding marks, each refillable pressure receptacle shall be marked indicating the date (year and month) of the last periodic inspection and the registered mark of the inspection body authorized by the competent authority of the country of use.”

It is proposed that 6.2.2.6.6 be amended as follows:

“In addition to the preceding marks, each refillable pressure receptacle that meets the periodic inspection and test requirements in 6.2.2.4 shall be marked indicating:

- (a) the character(s) identifying the country of use where the periodic inspection and test was performed;
- (b) the registered mark of the ~~inspection body~~ facility performing the periodic inspection and test, authorised by the competent authority of the country of use; and
- (c) the year (last two digits) and the month (two digits) of the periodic inspection and test. Four digits may be used to indicate the year.

The above marks shall appear consecutively in the sequence given.”

(Please note that the sequence above is aligned with the sequence proposed in the draft ISO standard FDIS 13739, *Gas cylinders – Stampmarking*.)

3. Conformity assessment system and approval framework

It would be constructive to have a discussion regarding the various periodic inspection and test approval procedures currently in place. Requirements for a conformity assessment system and/or an approval framework might need to be developed in order to ensure the consistency and traceability of such approvals for UN certified pressure receptacles.

The conformity assessment and approval requirements for the manufacture of UN certified pressure receptacles in 6.2.2.5 were based on ISO/TR 14600:2000, *Gas cylinders – International quality conformance system – Basic rules*, which was prepared by ISO Technical Committee 58, Gas cylinders (ISO/TC58) at the request of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

If it is determined that similar requirements are needed for the periodic inspection and test of UN certified pressure receptacles, the Working Group on the Transport of Gases could adapt the wording in 6.2.2.5 for a similar section, although perhaps less detailed, applicable to periodic inspection and test.
