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Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Geneva, 11-15 September 2006
Agenda item 2

TANKS*

Inspections and tests in 6.8.2.4

Transmitted by the Government of France

SUMMARY

Executive summary: The purpose of this document is to clarify the application of the provisions in 6.8.2.4.3 relating to the periodic inspections of tanks.

Action to be taken: Amend 6.8.2.4.3.

Related documents: ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/102, paragraph 15, and annex 2.

* Distributed by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under symbol OCTI/RID/GT-III/2006/34.

Introduction

1. During the March 2006 Joint Meeting, the following text was adopted on the basis of documents ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2006/6 and INF.21 concerning the inspection and tests of tanks, with a clause in 6.8.2.4.3 that required clarification placed in square brackets.

“6.8.2.4.2 Shells and their equipment shall undergo periodic inspections at least every eight years/six years/five years.

These periodic inspections shall include:

- an external and internal examination;
- a leakproofness test in accordance with 6.8.2.4.3 of the shell with its equipment and check of the satisfactory operation of all the equipment;
- as a general rule, a hydraulic pressure test⁹ (for the test pressure for the shells and compartments if applicable, see 6.8.2.4.1).

Sheathing for thermal or other insulation shall be removed only to the extent required for reliable appraisal of the characteristics of the shell.

In the case of tanks intended for the carriage of powdery or granular substances, and with the agreement of the expert approved by the competent authority, the periodic hydraulic pressure test may be omitted and replaced by leakproofness tests in accordance with 6.8.2.4.3, at an effective internal pressure at least equal to the maximum working pressure.

6.8.2.4.3 Shells and their equipment shall undergo intermediate inspections at least every four years/three years/two and a half years [after each inspection (initial, intermediate or periodic inspection).]

These intermediate inspections shall include a leakproofness test of the shell with its equipment and check of the satisfactory operation of all the equipment. For this purpose the tank shall be subjected to an effective internal pressure at least equal to the maximum working pressure. For tanks intended for the carriage of liquids or solids in the granular or powdery state, when a gas is used for the leakproofness test it shall be carried out at a pressure at least equal to 25% of the maximum working pressure. In all cases, it shall not be less than 20 kPa (0.2 bar) (gauge pressure).”

2. The concept of intermediate inspections introduced in 6.8.2.4.3 is clearly defined in standard EN 12972, covered by 6.8.2.6. It relates to the inspection carried out between the initial inspection and the first periodic inspection or between two periodic inspections.

3. There is therefore no risk of having a periodic inspection and an intermediate inspection at the same time. Some delegations pointed to a problem, as a second intermediate inspection would be required between two periodic inspections if the first periodic inspection was moved forward. We believe this problem can be resolved by adding the words “at least” to the adopted text.

Proposal

4. Amend the beginning of 6.8.2.4.3 as follows:

6.8.2.4.3 Shells and their equipment shall undergo intermediate inspections at least every four years/three years/two and a half years.

Justification

Safety implications: no problem.

Feasibility: no problem.

Enforcement: this amendment is needed to avoid problems of interpretation.
