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Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Geneva, 23 – 27 March 2009)

Agenda points 2 and 3: Tanks and standards

Quotation of standards in ADR and RID

Question from the International Union of Private Wagons (UIP)

For the last few years ADR and RID have undertaken as well to define only the main objectives and to fill in the details by quoting standards. The resulting reduction of technical development has already been discussed. It has also been noted that not only do the directly quoted standards achieve a quasi legal character, but also that in their turn, the standards quoted in these standards must be transposed.

For the UIP this leads to a series of questions and problems:

1. Error in standards

Unfortunately errors keep emerging in the standardization works. A reason could be the lack of awareness of problems among the participants. For example, presently the new rules taken over in EN 14025 to protect the fittings or the missing formula for the spherical diameter of tanks' end walls must be mentioned. How should such "errors" be approached. This is particularly relevant in fields where one cannot immediately conclude to a typing mistake (as in the quoted examples).

2. Safety technical irrelevant details in standards

There is a trend to quote also standards which have no direct implication with safety or which beside it, regulate questions of measurements as well. Meanwhile we received information from safety authorities that, by quoting the standard, these measurement requirements are also man-

datory. This is not acceptable in as far as, due to historical facts for example in filling stations or in different countries, special solutions must often be found.

3. Sub-quotation of standards

It has been noted that sub-quoted standards have the same importance as the immediately quoted standard. But often the persons who set up the standards were not aware of this situation. With the same lack of sensibility, standards have been partially quoted or other standards have not been quoted (for example: the usual tank stores are not in the new EN 13445). Are they then prohibited? Where are the limits in view of the problems described above?

4. National standards

Often national standards are also valid and must be added, for example in Germany DIN 78, which concerns protruding of screws. Are these norms to be considered as the stand of technique, equally valid, or which value should they be given?
