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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to annexes A and B of ADR: miscellaneous proposals

Extinguishers

Transmitted by the Government of Switzerland¹

Summary

Executive summary:	The number of extinguishers required under 8.1.4.1 must be clarified.
Action to be taken:	Amend 8.1.4.1 (b).
Related documents:	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/203.

¹ The present document is submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 (c) of the terms of reference of the Working Party, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/190/Add.1, which provides a mandate to “develop and update the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR)”.

Introduction

1. During the eighty-seventh session of the Working Group, the issue of the number of extinguishers that must be kept on board vehicles was discussed without, however, a definitive solution being reached. Paragraphs 8 and 9 of report ECE/TRANS/WP.15/203 summarize the discussion as follows:

Informal document: INF.26 (Poland)

8. The Working Party confirmed that, under 8.1.4.1 (c), the minimum total capacity of the extinguishers required under 8.1.4.1 (b) applied, regardless of the number of extinguishers per transport unit, and included the capacity of the extinguisher required under 8.1.4.1 (a).

9. The Working Party acknowledged, however, that the current wording of 8.1.4.1 could lead to problems of interpretation and that the wording should be revised in the future, on the basis of a proposed amendment.

2. The beginning of 8.1.4.1 of ADR is worded as follows:

“8.1.4.1 The following provisions apply to transport units carrying dangerous goods other than those referred to in 8.1.4.2:

(a) Every transport unit shall be equipped with at least one portable fire extinguisher for the inflammability classes¹ A, B and C, with a minimum total capacity of 2 kg dry powder (or an equivalent capacity for any other suitable extinguishing agent), suitable for fighting a fire in the engine or cab of the transport unit;

(b) Additional equipment is required as follows: ...”.

3. The opening of 8.1.4.1 (b) clearly means that two extinguishers are required: one of 2 kg as indicated in 8.1.4.1 (a); and another, additional one as specified in (b). Consequently, the affirmation made in paragraph 8 of the report of the session of November 2009, instead of reflecting the content of the texts, actually contradicts that content. ADR requires at least two extinguishers. Therefore, if the Working Party is to uphold the view expressed in November 2009, the wording of 8.1.4.1 (b) will have to be changed.

Proposal

4. Amend the first line of 8.1.4.1 (b) to read as follows:

“(b) For the transport units described below, extinguishers with the following minimum total capacities are required: ...”.

¹ For the definition of inflammability classes, see Standard EN 2:1992 Classification of fires.