

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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

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Item 5(b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN: new proposals

Modification of Special Provision 653 in chapter 3.3 RID/ADR/ADN

Transmitted by the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA)

Introduction

1. The expert from Sweden has transmitted ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC/1/2011/12. This paper follows on from a proposal made by EIGA in March 2008, which resulted in the changes made to the RID/ADR/ADN as detailed in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC/1/2011/12.
2. EIGA fully supports the proposal from the expert from Sweden, but wishes to propose two additional amendments Special Provision 653.

Proposal

3. Special Provision 653 applies at present to UN 1013, carbon dioxide and UN 1066, nitrogen compressed. These gases are inert, and EIGA wishes to see this Special Provision extended to UN 1006, argon compressed. The reason for this is that argon is sometimes used for similar applications as UN 1013, carbon dioxide and UN 1066, nitrogen compressed. The physical properties of argon are very similar to those of nitrogen
4. Secondly, the proposal is to increase the test pressure capacity product from 15 MPa.litre to 18.75 MPa.litre, rather than 15.2 MPa.litre as proposed in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC/1/2011/12.
5. Amend Special Provision 653 to, (changes in bold):

653 The carriage of this gas in cylinders having a test pressure capacity product of maximum 18.75 MPa. litre (187.5 bar. litre) is not subject to the other provisions of ADR if the following conditions are met:

- The provisions for construction and testing of cylinders are observed;
- The cylinders are contained in outer packagings which at least meet the requirements of Part 4 for combination packagings. The general provisions of packing of 4.1.1.1, 4.1.1.2 and 4.1.1.5 to 4.1.1.7 shall be observed;
- The cylinders are not packed together with other dangerous goods;
- The total gross mass of a package does not exceed 30 kg; and
- Each package is clearly and durably marked with “**UN 1006**” for argon compressed, "UN 1013" for carbon dioxide, or "UN 1066" for nitrogen, compressed. This marking is displayed within a diamond-shaped area surrounded by a line that measures at least 100 mm by 100 mm.

6. As a consequential amendment, add “653” to column 6 against 1006 argon compressed in Table A of the dangerous goods list.

Justification

7. It is proposed to include argon into Special Provision 653 as the physical properties of argon are very similar to those of nitrogen, which is already included in SP 653. For some applications argon is now being used in place of nitrogen and by not being included in SP 653, this is causing some difficulties in shipping.

8. Secondly, EIGA is proposing to increase the test pressure product capacity from 15 MPa.litre (150 bar. litre) to 18.75 MPa.litre (187.5 bar. litre). The reason for this is that this would permit cylinders of a water capacity of 0.75 litre to be included in SP 653. For some applications, cylinders of a slightly larger capacity are an advantage, and would only represent the capacity of a cylinder being 0.75 litre compared to 0.6 litre as used at present. The total gross mass of a package would remain unchanged.

Safety

No implications are foreseen

Feasibility

No implications

Enforcement

No implications
