Summary

Executive summary: Clarification of 4.5.1.1 of RID/ADR with respect to the use of vacuum-operation waste tanks for non-waste substances.

Action to be taken: Amendment of 4.5.1.1 of RID/ADR

Related documents: Informal document INF.12 presented at the March 2000 session; TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/80 paragraphs 49-50 and TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/80/Add.5, amendments to Chapter 4.5; TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2002/11 (Germany), and informal documents INF.8 and INF.40 presented at the March 2002 session; TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2003/31 (UIC); TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/92 paragraph 18 and TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/92/Add.1 item 10; Informal document INF.26 (Netherlands) presented at the September 2007 session; ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/108 paragraph 17 and ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/108/Add.1 paragraphs 39-41; ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2012/13 (Netherlands);
Introduction

1. Subsection 4.5.1.1 regulates the use of vacuum-operated waste tanks.

2. Below the text of subsection 4.5.1.1 (RID/ADR) is given:

"4.5.1.1 Wastes consisting of substances in Classes 3, 4.1, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 8 and 9 may be carried in vacuum-operated waste tanks conforming to Chapter 6.10 if their carriage in (ADR only: fixed tanks, demountable tanks,) tank-containers or tank swap bodies is permitted according to Chapter 4.3. Substances assigned to tank code L4BH in Column (12) of Table A of Chapter 3.2 or to another tank code permitted under the hierarchy in 4.3.4.1.2 may be carried in vacuum-operated waste tanks with the letter "A" or "B" in part 3 of the tank code (ADR only:, as indicated in No. 9.5 of the vehicle approval certificate conforming to 9.1.3.5)."

3. In the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting in March 2012 some countries expressed the opinion that substances other than wastes may be carried in vacuum-operated waste tanks according to the existing text of RID/ADR. The Working Group on Tanks also hasn’t safety objections against the carriage of pure/non-waste substances in vacuum-operated waste tanks according to Chapter 6.10 of RID/ADR.

4. Taking into account:
   - that the interpretation of 4.5.1.1 with respect to allowance of non-waste substances is ambiguous in practice;
   - that vacuum-operated waste tanks are used for non-waste substances in some practices (for example in the process industry); and
   - that the use of vacuum-operated waste tanks for non-waste substances seems justified from the point of safety,
we propose to amend the existing text of 4.5.1.1.

Proposal

5. In paragraph 4.5.1.1, second sentence, replace “Substances” by “Substances, including wastes,”