

---

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

### **Inland Transport Committee**

#### **Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**

11 September 2012

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

Geneva, 17-21 September 2012

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

#### **Reports of informal working groups**

### **Informal working group on the periodicity of testing of cylinders**

#### **Submitted by the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA) on behalf of the Working Group**

#### **Background**

1. At the Joint Meeting held in Bern in March 2012, EIGA presented document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2012/14 requesting the formation of an informal intersessional working group to consider the proposal to extend the interval for the periodic inspection for certain gases of Class 2. The Joint Meeting agreed to the formation of an informal intersessional working group under the Chairmanship of Germany.
2. The first meeting of this group was held on June 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> in Bonn under the Chairmanship of Herr Gregor Oberreuter of the Federal Ministry for Transport, Construction and Urban Development of Germany (BMVBS), with EIGA acting as the meeting secretary. The meeting reviewed the principles contained in the EIGA document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2012/14 and the intersessional group agreed that there was merit in continuing the work.
3. The participants included the Competent authorities of Germany, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. In addition there were representatives from the German Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM), the British Compressed Gases Association (BCGA), European Cylinder Makers Association (ECMA), the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA) and German Industrial Gases Association (IGV). The participants at the meeting agreed that the proposal from EIGA was a basis to continue the discussion.
4. It was agreed that a second meeting would be held on September 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> in Krefeld, Germany to include a visit to a cylinder re-tester. It was also agreed that a report would be prepared for the September 2012 Joint Meeting to report on progress and request permission to continue the work of the intersessional working group.
5. Tragically, on 4<sup>th</sup> July Herr Oberreuter passed away suddenly. In discussions between Germany and EIGA it was proposed that Mr Francois Le Fort, formerly of the Swiss Federal Office of Transport chair the Intersessional Group. Mr Le Fort agreed to this request and subsequently chaired the second meeting.
6. The second meeting established amongst other items the priorities for discussion from the initial meeting and reviewed additional periodic inspection and test data.

7. The intersessional working group has planned to meet in December 2012 in Brussels and at a Cylinder filling facility in February 2013.

8. The intersessional working group requests that where possible additional Competent authority representatives attend these future meetings, especially in February 2013 where the opportunity will be given to look into the operation of a filling centre. As well, if Competent authorities are in possession, or have access to data concerning the rate of rejection of cylinders at the periodic inspection and testing of gas cylinders, they are requested to submit this to the intersessional working group prior to the next meeting of the working group in December. As well, there was a request from the meeting for valve manufacturers to be represented.

9. As a consequence of the above work, the intersessional working group requests confirmation from the Joint Meeting that the work may continue to develop a proposal for eventual submission to the Joint Meeting.

---