

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda

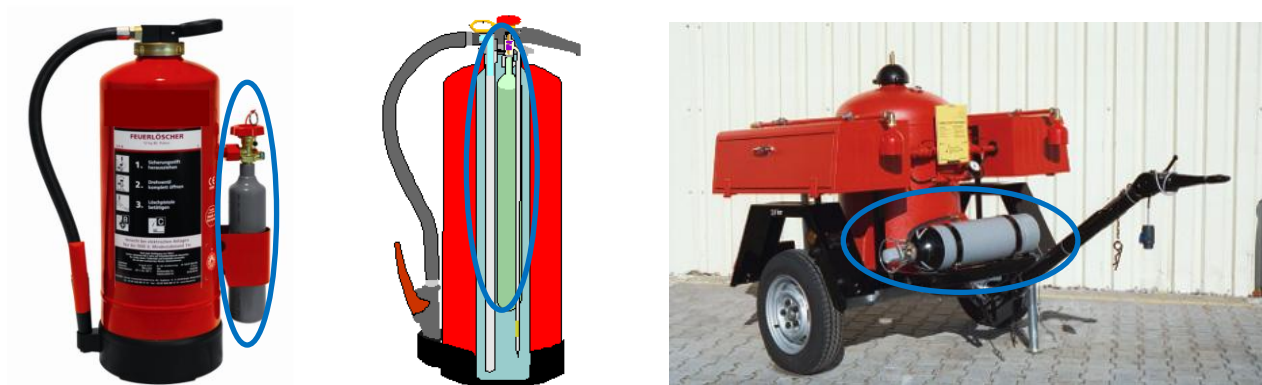
Transport of gases: miscellaneous

Transport of pressure receptacles for fire extinguishers

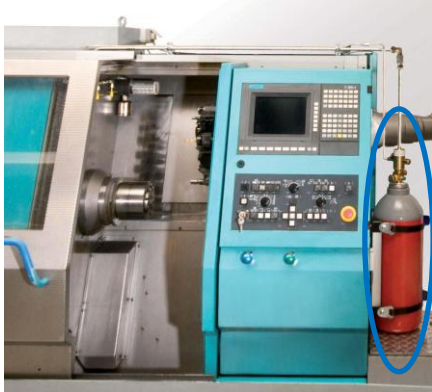
Transmitted by the expert from Germany

Introduction

1. With the 18th edition of the UN Model Regulations, a description of various fire extinguishers was added to special provision 225 to clarify which types of fire extinguishers are covered by UN 1044.
2. However, the question remains unanswered of how these pressure receptacles intended for later use in such fire extinguishers or in stationary fire-fighting installations are to be classified and which requirements apply to them.
3. These receptacles are gas cylinders (see Figures 1 and 3) or gas cartridges (see Figure 2) which are used as tanks for the propellant gas necessary to expel the extinguishing agent, or gas cylinders containing the extinguishing agent which are used for a longer period of time in a stationary fire-fighting installation (see Figures 4 and 5).
4. These pressure receptacles are not a permanent component of the fire extinguisher or the stationary fire-fighting installation, and are, for the most part, also carried separately from these fire extinguishers (e.g. prior to their use in the fire extinguisher or stationary fire-fighting installation and/or for filling) and should therefore be considered as conventional pressure receptacles in accordance with chapter 6.2.



Figures 1 to 3: Gas cylinders and gas cartridges used in fire extinguishers



Figures 4 and 5: Gas cylinders used in stationary fire-fighting installations

Proposal

5. Insert the following note at the end of special provision 225:

NOTE: "Pressure receptacles which are intended for later use in the above fire extinguishers or in stationary fire-fighting installations and are transported separately shall meet the requirements in Chapter 6.2 and all requirements applicable to the relevant dangerous good."

Justification

6. By inserting the proposed note, it is clarified that such pressure receptacles are treated in a uniform way in the future. This clarification is also in line with the differentiation made within the framework of Directive 97/23/EC concerning pressure equipment by guideline 1/36 from Directive 2010/35/EU on transportable pressure equipment. The matter was also discussed in the ad-hoc Working Group on the Harmonization of RID/ADR/ADN with the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in April 2013 (paragraph 18 in document OTIF/RID/RC/2013/31). An identical proposal will also be submitted for the Joint Meeting in September 2013.
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