Exemption related to the carriage of chemicals under pressure according to 1.1.3.6

Submitted by the Government of Austria

Summary

Executive summary: The current wording of 1.1.3.6.3 is ambiguous concerning the carriage of chemicals under pressure.

Action to be taken: Amend 1.1.3.6.3 – last indent.

Related documents: Informal document INF.26 (Austria), May 2013 session of WP15

Introduction

1. The table in 1.1.3.6.3 refers in its column (3) to the maximum total quantity. According to the goods transported the numbers indicated in this column may mean gross mass in kilograms, net mass in kilograms or nominal capacity in receptacles in litres (see explanation below the table).

1 In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2010–2014 (ECE/TRANS/208, para. 106, ECE/TRANS/2010/8, programme activity 02.7 (c)).

2 Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2013/56.
2. A problem arises when it comes to the carriage of chemicals under pressure as they appear in various conditions of aggregation. Therefore no clear calculation method can be applied, what would be necessary in order to be able to carry out a transport under 1.1.3.6.

3. On the 94th session of the WP15, where Austria presented this problem in Inf. 26, several delegations confirmed that it was necessary to clarify the rules for calculating the maximum total quantity per transport unit so as to supply 1.1.3.6 to chemicals under pressure.

4. In cooperation with the government of Belgium, we would like to come up with this proposal.

Proposal

5. Amend 1.1.3.6.3 – last indent to read as follows (please note that the proposal is based on the text amended by the Joint Meeting in March 2013 which should enter into force 1 January 2015):

For compressed gases and chemicals under pressure, nominal capacity of the receptacle (see definition in 1.2.1) in litres.

Justification

6. With regard to practicability it makes more sense to amend 1.1.3.6.3 last indent than 1.1.3.6.3 second indent, although it must be said that the difference between both options is quite small. The nominal capacity of receptacles for chemicals under pressure is easier to determine and check during an inspection.