

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

5 August 2015

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) (ADN Safety Committee)

Twenty-seventh session

Geneva, 24 - 28 August 2015

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Any other business

DockLock System

Transmitted by the Government of the Netherlands

I. Introduction

1. During the 23rd session of the ADN Safety Committee, Mampaey Offshore Industries presented their DockLock Mooring system. The DockLock system is an automated system for mooring. DockLock consists of multiple mechanical arms (hydraulically operated) installed on the bunker vessel. These mechanical arms are equipped with large magnetic panels which will attach to the outer hull of the sea vessel. After activation, the DockLock system secures safe mooring between the vessels (WP.15/AC.2/INF.26).

2. The DockLock system is much safer for the crew on board both vessels responsible for mooring. The use of heavy ropes, to be thrown to the bunker vessel is no longer necessary. Instead, only the computer controlled DockLock system has to be activated. The time span necessary for the mooring operation is also much reduced. This provides a solid but flexible alternative to the current use of ropes.

3. During its 23rd session the ADN Safety Committee discussed the provisions relevant for such a system. As the DockLock system is installed in the cargo area, it has to comply with zone 1 regulations on explosion safety. Also relevant are, but not restricted to, the provisions of ADN 7.2.5.3 and 8.6.3 Checklist Question 3.

II. Developments during the last two years

4. In the last two years the DockLock system has developed further, and been extensively tested in practice. The whole system is according to the ATEX standard, and is in compliance with the ADN on explosion safety. Lloyds Register, as the class society involved, recently issued an "Approval in principle" Certificate.

5. The Netherlands delegation is supportive of the introduction of this system as a safe and reliable alternative to the use of ropes for mooring.

III. Proposal

6. To request - based on ADN 1.5.3.1 - the DockLock system as being an equivalent to the current use of ropes for mooring.

7. The Netherlands delegation proposes to chair an informal working group to further analyse the system and to draw up a proposal for the Safety Committee.