

## 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

18 June 2014

### Forty-fifth session

Geneva, 23 June – 2 July 2014

Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Transport of gases: global recognition of UN and non-UN pressure receptacles**

## Working group on global recognition of UN and non-UN pressure receptacles

Transmitted by the Compressed Gas Association (CGA)

### Background

1. During the forty-fourth session held in November/December 2013, as noted in ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/88, the following was agreed regarding work on global recognition of UN and non-UN pressure receptacles:

“33. Consideration of the document was assigned to a lunchtime working group, which arrived at the following conclusions:

- (a) It was possible that the solution might not be found in the framework of the Model Regulations and that it might instead fall within the remit of national or regional regulations or other instruments;
- (b) The aim of the intersessional correspondence work should be to facilitate discussions and draw up recommendations that might have to be implemented or followed up outside of the framework of the Sub-Committee;
- (c) The short-term objectives were the following:
  - (i) To enhance recognition of UN pressure receptacles;
  - (ii) To allow for the import/export not only of UN pressure receptacles but also of filled ‘non-UN’ pressure receptacles, bearing in mind that pressure receptacles have a long service life (approximately 50 years) (the terms “import/export” referring here to international transport, not international trade);
  - (iii) To enhance recognition of pressure receptacles containing solids or liquids.

34. In a first phase, the representative of CGA would draw up a draft ‘plan of action’ that would be distributed to the members of the working group for further development by correspondence. The working group would meet at lunchtime or if necessary in the evening at the next session of the Sub-Committee.

35. The Sub-Committee accepted those conclusions.”

2. Furthermore, it was agreed that, noting the many detailed differences between non-UN pressure receptacles from various countries and regions, the full global recognition of non-UN pressure receptacles would not be addressed at this time.

## Update

3. As agreed during the previous session, as a first step, the representative of CGA developed a draft action plan document and circulated it for the working group to comment and build upon.
4. The draft document identifies general and specific issues related to the three short-term objectives mentioned in paragraph 1 above, as well as possible paths forward in various forums, that have been mentioned in previous discussions as well as by working group members.
5. From some of the comments received, it seems that there are still some differences in opinion regarding what appropriately should or should not be discussed by the working group.
6. As anticipated during the previous session, it is proposed that the working group meet at lunchtime during the first week of this session (23-27 June 2014) and/or if necessary in the evening during that week, to discuss further the remit of the working group, to agree on the approach for further work, and to discuss next steps.
7. Based on some of the working group comments received, the proposed agenda and some discussion points for this next meeting are as follows:

### **Proposed agenda**

- A. Objective: to enhance recognition of UN pressure receptacles
    - Should the working group still identify issues and possible recommendations that might have to be implemented or followed up outside of the framework of the UN Sub-Committee?
    - Should there be surveys or presentations from experts mapping out existing national and regional systems for approvals, technical inspections, etc., through this working group, and/or should this information be shared during bilateral or multilateral discussions between countries and regions?
  - B. Objective: to facilitate the import/export of filled non-UN pressure receptacles
    - Should import/export of filled non-UN pressure receptacles be addressed through bilateral or multilateral recognitions in national or regional regulations, and/or should the UN Sub-Committee consider if it can be included in the Model Regulations?
  - C. Objective: to consider expediting provisions for liquids and solids
    - Should this continue to be included among the short-term objectives?
  - D. Next steps
    - Should or how should the draft document, action plan, or approach develop further?
    - Which parts should be worked on next, by whom, and in what forum?
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