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Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Interpretation of ADR

Interpretation of 5.4.1.1.1 (f)

Transmitted by the Government of Switzerland*

Summary

Executive summary: During highway checks and operations on vehicles that distribute petroleum products, it is important to know the exact contents of the tank or intermediate bulk container (IBC) at that particular moment. The Working Party is invited to interpret the meaning of the term “offered for carriage” in 5.4.1.1.1.

Introduction

1. The following issue arises in the distribution of petroleum products. According to subsection 5.4.1.1.1, transport documents must contain the information listed in subparagraphs (a) to (k) for each dangerous substance, material or article offered for carriage. That information includes, according to subparagraph (f), the total quantity of each item of dangerous goods bearing a different UN number, proper shipping name or, when applicable, packing group.

2. Knowing the quantity present in the vehicle at the time of an inspection or an accident is useful for determining the methods to be employed, particularly in the event of liquid spillage. It would also make it possible to determine whether or not goods transported in an IBC with a volume of more than 1,000 litres, for example, for the purpose of refuelling construction machinery, should benefit from the exemptions set out in 1.1.3.6. Such IBCs are often locked during transport, without the driver having been given the key, and, as a rule, the transport document indicates only the quantity introduced upon initial filling.

* Subprogramme 2 of the programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (Sect. 20) and additional information).



3. The Working Party is invited to answer the following question: does the term “offered for carriage” in 5.4.1.1.1 refer to the quantity of dangerous goods present on board the vehicle at the start of the carriage or to the quantity of dangerous goods remaining in the vehicle, for example, at the time of an inspection? This question appears regularly in information requests received from police officers in the field and from enterprises.
