

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Bern, 15-19 March 2021

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Tanks

Comments on document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2021/16 and informal document INF.10

Transmitted by the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA)

Introduction

1. There are a few issues in the draft texts in the above-named documents that EIGA would like to be discussed by the informal working group on the inspection and certification of tanks or the working group on tanks.

Comments on ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2021/16

2. In Chapter 6.2 inspection bodies conforming to EN ISO 17020 Type B are permitted to perform periodic inspection. So far, as EIGA is aware, the definition in the ISO standard has been sufficient for accreditation bodies to establish what type of organisation is meant. However, this paper proposes to add the following text to describe a "Type B body":

"working exclusively for the owner or the duty holder responsible for the pressure receptacles".

EIGA has a query:

What is a "duty holder"? This phrase occurs nowhere else in RID/ADR and is not defined. On the other hand, the word "operator" occurs frequently in 1.8.7 and seems to EIGA to conform to what the standard intends to convey. So, the phrase could be "working exclusively for the owner or operator of the pressure receptacles".

Comments on informal document INF.10

3. 6.8.1.5.3 (b)

This proposed text allows an in-house inspection service to provide supervision of manufacture in accordance with 1.8.7.3 for the service equipment of tanks. The manufacture of service equipment is very similar to the manufacture of pressure receptacles. For pressure receptacles, however, in-house inspection services are allowed to perform the initial inspection and test in accordance with 1.8.7.4. Why are in-house inspection services not allowed to perform initial inspection and test on service equipment for tanks?

4. 1.8.6.2.3.1 (j)

On first reading we were concerned whether requiring liability insurance was compatible with the nature of RID/ADR and whether it was appropriate for approved bodies. However, on checking EN ISO 17020:2012 we found the following text:

"5.1.4 The inspection body shall have adequate provision (e.g., insurance or reserves) to cover liabilities arising from its operations."

NOTE The liability can be assumed by the State in accordance with national laws, or by the organization of which the inspection body forms a part.”

The adoption of accreditation to EN ISO 17020 has already established liability insurance in the regulations, but it may be helpful to include text similar to that in the above note to cater Type B bodies. On the other hand, if accreditation to EN ISO 17020 is adopted for all inspection bodies, there is no need for paragraph (j) since insurance will be covered.

5. **1.8.6.3.3**

The note at the beginning of this paragraph includes “appointed bodies”. We assume that this should read “approved bodies”. At the present, type B bodies are allowed to delegate parts of periodic inspection. What is the reason for this new prohibition?

6. **1.8.6.3.3.3**

This text reads:

“The inspection body shall not delegate entirely each of its activities the whole task of conformity assessment, periodic inspection, intermediate inspection or exceptional checks. In any case, the assessment and the issue of certificates shall be carried out by the inspection body itself.”

It is our opinion that this is less clear than the original. We are not convinced that the meaning of “each of its activities” conveys the correct understanding of the procedures described in 1.8.7. We can see that “conformity assessment” is imprecise, so we suggest that this paragraph should read:

“The inspection body shall not delegate the whole task of type examination, supervision of manufacture, initial inspection and test, entry into service verification, conformity assessment, periodic inspection, intermediate inspection, or exceptional inspection checks or surveillance of the in-house inspection service. In any case, the assessment and the issue of certificates shall be carried out by the inspection body itself.”

It is long, but it cannot be misunderstood.
