

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

12 March 2021

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

Work of the informal working group on the inspection and certification of tanks: fundamental principles and explanatory document

Transmitted by the Government of Switzerland

Summary

- Executive summary:** This document provides delegates with a list of documents containing the mandate and the fundamental principles for the work of the informal working group on the inspection and certification of tanks.
- Action to be taken:** Switzerland would welcome an exchange of views on the need to update the fundamental principles and to draft an explanatory document on the main changes.
- Related documents:** [ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2021/7](#) and [INF.10](#).

Introduction

1. Since the beginning of its work in 2015, the informal working group on the inspection and certification of tanks has submitted proposals for amendments to sections 1.8.6, 1.8.7 and Chapter 6.8 on a regular basis as the work progressed. In addition, the group has regularly recalled its mandate and the fundamental principles that form the basis of the proposals on the procedures and the administrative controls for the approvals and inspections of tanks. This information is available in the following documents:

- [ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/138/Add.1](#): Report of the Working Group on Tanks, March 2015 (paragraph 31: items for a mandate for the informal working group).
- [ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2015/13](#): Summary record of the "Würzburg" informal Working Group on cross-border tank approval in the practice of the European Union Member States – possibility of extending the scope of TPED (list of actions in section A of part VIII "Targets and actions at RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting level").
- [Informal Documents INF.10 of the September 2015 session](#): report on the first session of the informal working group on the inspection and certification of tanks.
- [ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2017/22](#): Report of the informal working group on the inspection and certification of tanks (paragraph 5: fundamental principles agreed upon by the informal working group).
- [Informal Documents INF.12 of the March 2019 session](#): Fundamental principles and outline of mandate on which the group have based proposals for 1.8.6, 1.8.7 and the related sections in Chapter 6.8.

2. Because of their level of detail and complexity, the lists of proposed amendments require expertise either in the field of accreditation of inspection bodies or in the field of the construction and approval of tanks, or otherwise a considerable investment in time. Documents of a more general nature such as those listed above have the advantage of rapidly explaining the functioning of the system that is to be put in place. They are also likely to be understood by a large number of players.

3. In Switzerland, economic actors involved to a greater or lesser extent in the inspection and certification of tanks have expressed the wish to have a document presenting the main principles and the forthcoming changes in the regulations. We believe that in other States, the authorities will also have to summarise and explain these changes at some point, for example if changes in the national legislation are necessary.

4. We therefore invite the Joint Meeting to consider the preparation of an explanatory document by the group. We believe that, as a minimum, the list of fundamental principles should be updated.

Possible contents of the explanatory document

1. Updated list of fundamental principles, corresponding to the texts proposed for adoption by the Joint Meeting.
2. Summary of the main changes (could be incorporated into the fundamental principles, if appropriate).
3. Overview of authorised activities and/or recognised documents during the transitional period (see Annex IV of INF.10). For example: what will be the status of certificates issued by non-accredited bodies, issued after 1 January 2023?

Justification

5. The establishment of an explanatory document will allow a better understanding and acceptance of the upcoming changes by all stakeholders. The drafting of such a document will also allow the group to identify possible gaps in the proposed texts. Finally, the document will ultimately save time to all States, as those will have to communicate such information at national level.
