Definition of “extra-large tank-containers” and consequential amendments – comments on ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2022/7

Transmitted by the Government of the United Kingdom

Introduction

1. Following the outcome of the RID Committee of Experts’ standing working group meeting in November 2021, the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and the International Union of Wagon Keepers (UIP) propose in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2022/7 a definition of “extra-large tank-containers” and some consequential amendments. The Government of the United Kingdom agrees with the principle of these amendments but proposes some drafting changes as shown below.

Proposals

2. At the last RID Committee of Experts’ standing working group meeting it was agreed that the abbreviation “(BTC)” should not be used in the regulations as it was a term used by a single chemical company (see paragraph 24 of the excerpt of the report of this meeting shown in the annex to ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2022/7). The United Kingdom believes the definition of “Extra-large tank-container” should appear under the definition of “Container” rather than “Tank-container” and “capacity” is the appropriate term rather than “volume”.

Include a new definition in 1.2.1 under the term “Tank-container” preceded by “In addition:”

“"Extra-large tank-container" means a tank-container with a capacity of more than 40,000 litres that is mainly used for rail transport due to its size and gross mass.”

3. In 6.8.2.1.18 in the right hand-column, amend the third paragraph to read as follows (new text in bold):

“Whatever the metal used, the shell thickness shall in no case be less than 3 mm or 4.5 mm if the tank is an extra-large tank-container.”

4. In the new transitional measure the United Kingdom believes that there should be a reference to the third paragraph of 6.8.2.1.18 as other paragraphs refer to other (minimum) thicknesses.

In 1.6.4, insert a new transitional measure 1.6.4.x to read as follows:

“1.6.4.x Extra-large tank-containers constructed before 1 July 2023 in accordance with the requirements in force up to 31 December 2022 but which do not conform to the requirements of 6.8.2.1.18 third paragraph concerning the minimum thickness of the shell applicable as from 1 January 2023 may still be used.”