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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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

Geneva, 11-21 September 2007
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

TANKS

Vacuum-operated waste tanks

Transmitted by the Government of the Netherlands

Introduction

Some transporters are of the opinion that vacuum-operated waste tanks can be used for the carriage of dangerous goods other than wastes. This opinion is based on the second sentence of 4.5.1.1.

The text of 4.5.1.1 is printed below.

“4.5.1.1 Wastes consisting of substances in Classes 3, 4.1, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 8 and 9 may be carried in vacuum-operated waste tanks conforming to Chapter 6.10 if their carriage in fixed tanks, demountable tanks, tank-containers or tank swap bodies /(RID: in tank-containers or tank swap bodies) is permitted according to Chapter 4.3. Substances assigned to tank code L4BH in Column (12) of Table A of Chapter 3.2 or to another tank code permitted under the hierarchy in 4.3.4.1.2 may be carried in vacuum-operated waste tanks with the letter "A" or "B" in part 3 of the tank code (ADR only: , as indicated in No. 9.5 of the vehicle approval certificate conforming to 9.1.3.5).”

Interpretation by the Joint Meeting

The Joint Meeting is asked to give her interpretation whether vacuum-operated tanks may only be used for wastes of dangerous goods.

If the Joint Meeting is of the opinion that vacuum-operated waste tanks are only to be used for wastes of dangerous goods, the following amendments of the requirements are proposed to make the text clearer in this respect.

Consequential amendments

In the definition of vacuum-operated waste tank in chapter 1.2.1:

Delete the word “primarily”.

Amend marginal 4.5.1.1 as follows:

4.5.1.1 Wastes may be carried in vacuum-operated waste tanks conforming to Chapter 6.10, provided that:

- the wastes consist of substances of Classes 3, 4.1, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 8 and 9;
- their carriage in fixed tanks, demountable tanks, tank-containers or tank swap bodies (RID: in tank-containers or tank swap bodies) is permitted according to Chapter 4.3; and
- the substances are assigned to tank code L4BH in Column (12) of Table A of Chapter 3.2 or to another tank code permitted under the hierarchy in 4.3.4.1.2;~~and~~.

These substances may be carried in vacuum-operated waste tanks with the letter “A” or “B” in part 3 of the tank code (ADR only: , as indicated in No. 9.5 of the vehicle approval certificate conforming to 9.1.3.5).

Background information

Vacuum-operated waste tanks are equipped with openable ends to allow for the specific use of wastes collection. This equipment presents a higher risk over tanks with fixed ends and therefore should be limited to wastes (see definition of wastes in 1.2.1).

Wastes containing substances with a calculation pressure higher than 4 bar in part 1 of the tank code are not to be carried due to the additional risk of vacuum-operated waste tanks.

In the original working group (1996 /1997), dealing with the drawing of the provisions concerning vacuum-operated waste tanks, was agreement on the limitation of the use to wastes only.

Although in the definition of “vacuum operated waste tanks” in 1.2.1 the use is opened up by stating “*primarily* used for the carriage of dangerous wastes”, the working group intended to allow this alternate use for salvage operation of non wastes substances or other emergency situations only.

However, the alternate use for the recovery of loads from damaged vehicles by emergency services is regulated in a more general way in 1.1.3.1(d).

During the 71st meeting of WP.15 (November 2001) the first sentence of marginal 4.5.1.1 was amended and the second sentence added. (See report TRANS/WP.15/167, paragraph 65 and Annex 4, and November 2001/INF. 35/Rev.1). These amendments were introduced in ADR 2003.

The purpose of the amendment was to make possible the allocation of substances to vacuum-operated waste tanks which have a tank code that is lower in the hierarchy (e.g. L4BH substances in L4AH/S4AH tanks).
