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Item 6(b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to Annexes A and B of ADR: miscellaneous proposals

Sub-sections 8.1.4.4 and 8.1.4.5

Transmitted by the Government of Sweden¹

Summary

Executive summary:	The text concerning inspection of fire extinguishers in 8.1.4.4 needs to be clarified. Specify in 8.1.4.5 that the date required in 8.1.4.4 must not have expired during carriage.
Action to be taken:	Amend sub-sections 8.1.4.4 and 8.1.4.5.
Related documents:	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/215, Report from the ninety-second session of WP.15. Informal document INF.14 of the ninety-second session.

¹ The present document is submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 (c) of the terms of reference of the Working Party, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/190/Add.1, which provides a mandate to “develop and update the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR)”.

Background

1. At the ninety-second session of WP.15, Sweden presented informal document INF.14 which concerned interpretation regarding inspections of fire extinguishers in sub-section 8.1.4.4.
2. The question was whether the inspections mentioned in the second and third paragraphs in sub-section 8.1.4.4 refer to the same inspection (to guarantee the function of extinguishing agent, pressure gauge, safety device etc.).
3. The result of the discussions was that the second and third paragraphs of 8.1.4.4 both refer to inspections to ensure that the extinguishers functions properly and not to the periodic test of pressure receptacles called for in Chapter 6.2. However, it was recognized that the English version of the text could be clarified in this respect.
4. For this purpose, Sweden proposes to amend the text in 8.1.4.4. Apart from letting the text in the second and third paragraphs change place and become a new second paragraph, the following is proposed:
 - In the current text, the terms “recurrent” and “periodic” inspections are mentioned. To differentiate to the wording used for periodic tests in Chapter 6.2, Sweden would prefer the term “recurrent inspection” in 8.1.4.4.
 - The current text states that the date shall be in the form of an inscription. As far as we are concerned this marking usually consists of a label. Since this date shall be in compliance with a standard recognized by a competent authority, we believe the conditions for this marking might vary. Using the term “mark/marking” would allow for an inscription as well as a label. Sweden believes both methods would be sufficient. Furthermore, the term “marking” is used in EN 3-7:2004 + A1:2007 mentioned in 8.1.4.3. This standard deals with the characteristics, performance requirements and test methods for fire extinguishers.
 - The words “at least” in 8.1.4.4 have been put between square brackets in the proposal below. However, Sweden cannot see any need for keeping these words and believe they can be deleted. If the purpose is to allow for a marking that indicates further details than the date (month, year), this would also be allowed if the words are removed.
 - Lastly, Sweden proposes to add a sentence at the end of 8.1.4.5. The reason for this is that the provision in 8.1.4.4, to indicate the date of the next recurrent inspection, does not limit the time for the actual use of the fire extinguisher. It only requires this date to be marked on the extinguisher.

Proposals

5. Amend sub-section 8.1.4.4 as follows (changes underlined or stricken out):

“8.1.4.4 The portable fire extinguishers conforming to the provisions of 8.1.4.1 or 8.1.4.2 shall be fitted with a seal verifying that they have not been used.

~~In addition, they shall bear a mark of compliance with a standard recognized by a competent authority and an inscription at least indicating the date (month, year) of the next recurrent inspection or of the maximum permissible period of use, as applicable.~~

The fire extinguishers shall be subjected to ~~periodic~~recurrent inspections in accordance with authorized national standards in order to guarantee their functional safety. ~~In addition, They~~ shall bear a mark of compliance with a standard recognized by a competent authority and ~~a marking an inscription~~ [at least] indicating the date (month, year) of the next recurrent inspection or of the maximum permissible period of use, as applicable.”.

6. Amend sub-section 8.1.4.5 as follows (change underlined):

“8.1.4.5 The fire extinguishers shall be installed on the transport units in a way that they are easily accessible to the vehicle crew. The installation shall be carried out in such a way that the fire extinguishers shall be protected against effects of the weather so that their operational safety is not affected. During carriage, the date required in 8.1.4.4 must not have expired.”.
