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**Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**
(Bern, 11-15 September 2000)

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE TEXT OF THE RID/ADR

CHAPTER 6.2

Service Equipment and Openings of Receptacles for Gases - Section 6.2.1.3

Transmitted by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) */

SUMMARY

Executive summary : This proposal removes an illogical and unnecessary restriction in the number of permissible openings in pressure drums. It will also increase safety by requiring all fittings to be protected in the same way as valves.

Action to be taken : Amend 6.2.1.3.1 and 6.2.3.1.2

Relevant documents : TRANS/WP.15/159/Add.6

*/ Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT/III/2000/22.

Introduction

A working group of CEN Technical Committee 23 is currently preparing a standard entitled: “Specification for welded pressure drums up to 1000 litre capacity for the transport of gases – Design and construction”.

The draft standard will be submitted shortly to the 6 months public enquiry.

The scope of the standard applies to all pressure drums and specifies minimum requirements for the material, design, construction and testing of pressure drums irrespective of their future content. It includes requirements for the openings that would apply to all pressure drums.

The text of 6.2.1.3.1 *Openings* (formerly marginal 2213(1)) however gives generic provisions for the openings in paragraph one and less stringent requirements for the openings of drums intended for the carriage of flammable liquefied gases in the second paragraph:

“Apart from a manhole which, if provided, shall be closed by an effective closure and from the necessary orifice for the removal of deposits, pressure drums shall not be equipped with more than two openings, one for the filling and one for the discharge.

Cylinders and pressure drums, intended for the carriage of gases of classification code 2F may be provided with other openings intended in particular for verifying the level of the liquid and the gauge pressure.”

This inconsistency was not challenged during the restructuring work of Class 2 but will cause a problem to refer in chapter 6.2 to the standard in preparation.

The above restriction on gases that are not flammable is not required for safety reasons; it does not serve any useful purpose, and is an unnecessary restriction. Designers and users wish to have the option, particularly with vertical drums, to have other openings for level gauges, pressure gauges or relief devices on drums used for all gases. The restrictions on openings should be generic as stated in 6.8.2.2.1 for the service equipment of tanks. The key issue is to ensure that the operating equipment that is fitted to those openings is correctly protected from damage during transport and handling.

Also, given the capacity of pressure drums, the reference to a “manhole” should better be replaced by an “inspection opening”.

Proposal

It is proposed to delete the existing text of 6.2.1.3.1 and to replace it by:

“Pressure drums may be provided with openings for filling and discharge and with other openings intended for level gauges, pressure gauges or relief devices. The number of openings shall be kept to a minimum consistent with safe operations. Pressure drums may also be provided with an inspection opening, which shall be closed by an effective closure.”

It is proposed to add to 6.2.1.3.2 *Fittings* after (d):

“(e) If level gauges, pressure gauges or relief devices are installed, they shall be protected in the same way as is required for valves in 4.1.6.4.”

Justification

- Safety* : The introduction of protection for all fittings on receptacles will improve safety. The elimination of an unnecessary restriction on openings in pressure drums containing gases that are not flammable will not affect safety.
- Feasibility* : The change follows the requirements of the CEN standard in preparation on the construction of pressure drums.
- Enforceability* : Compliance will be readily recognised by the inspection bodies and authorities.
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