



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2001/36
16 March 2001

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Bern, 28 May - 1 June 2001)

CHAPTER 6.8 - LEAKPROOFNESS TEST FOR TANKS

Transmitted by the Government of France*

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| <p>Executive summary: The purpose of this proposal is to make provision for leakproofness tests for tanks intended for the carriage of liquids, using a gas at 25 % of maximum pressure.</p> <p>Action to be taken: Amend the text of 6.8.2.4.3.</p> |
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RID/ADR specifies that the leakproofness test for a tank must be carried out at a pressure at least equal to the maximum working pressure (MWP).

In the majority of cases, this test is carried out using water at MWP.

For tanks intended for the carriage of certain liquids, however, the use of water may cause problems such as the drying-out of the shell without dismantling of the equipment, possible incompatibility with the materials or the substance carried, support of the shell.

* Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT/III/2001/36.

In such cases the test is generally carried out using air. Performing air tests at maximum working pressure, however, represents a considerable hazard for the personnel responsible for the inspection, and the domestic labour laws of many countries do not permit them.

We therefore propose to authorize the carrying out of leakproofness tests using a gas at 25% of maximum working pressure, as Chapter 6.7 in fact provides.

Proposal

It is proposed that the second sentence of 6.8.2.4.3 should be amended to read:

“For this purpose the tank shall be subjected to an effective internal pressure at least equal to the maximum working pressure. For tanks intended for the carriage of liquids, when a gas is used for the leakproofness test it shall be carried out at a pressure at least equal to 25% of the maximum working pressure. In all cases, it shall not be less than 20 kPa (0.2 bar) (gauge pressure).”
