



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2003/50
4 June 2003

Original: ENGLISH

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**
(Geneva, 1-10 September 2003)

DEFINITION OF HERMETIC TANKS

Transmitted by the Government of Belgium */

1. INTRODUCTION

During the session of the RID/ADR Joint Meeting held in Bern from 24 to 28 March 2003, the definition of "hermetically closed tank" was changed as follows :

"Hermetically closed tank" means a tank for the carriage of liquids with a calculation pressure of at least 4 bar, or for the carriage of solid (powdery or granular) substances of any calculation pressure, whose openings are hermetically closed and which:

- is not equipped with safety valves, bursting discs, other similar safety devices or vacuum valves, or

*/ Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT-III/2003/50.

- *is equipped with safety valves preceded by a bursting disc according to 6.8.2.2.10, or*
- *is not equipped with safety valves, bursting discs, other similar safety devices but is provided with vacuum valves, as allowed by an applicable special provision of 6.8.4, or*
- *is equipped with safety valves preceded by a bursting disc according to 6.8.2.2.10 and with vacuum valves, as allowed by an applicable special provision of 6.8.4.*

(See point 85 of the preliminary report TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2003/CRP.1 and point 4.1 of the report of the tank working group INF. 50).

2. DEFICIENCIES

- 2.1. In this rewritten definition, the fourth indent is already covered by the second one (because the text of the second indent is too general).
- 2.2. The sequence of the cases, covered by the different indents, is not the most logical one: it should lead from “no safety equipment present” to “the maximum of safety equipment present” (or the reverse).
- 2.3. The text of the third indent is grammatically wrong.

3. PROPOSAL

Replace the definition of “hermetically closed tank” with :

“Hermetically closed tank” means a tank for the carriage of liquids with a calculation pressure of at least 4 bar, or for the carriage of solid (powdery or granular) substances of any calculation pressure, whose openings are hermetically closed and which:

- is not equipped with safety valves, bursting discs, other similar safety devices or vacuum valves, or
 - is not equipped with safety valves, bursting discs or other similar safety devices, but is provided with vacuum valves as allowed by an applicable special provision of 6.8.4, or
 - is equipped with safety valves preceded by a bursting disc according to 6.8.2.2.10, but not with vacuum valves, or
 - is equipped with safety valves preceded by a bursting disc according to 6.8.2.2.10, and with vacuum valves as allowed by an applicable special provision of 6.8.4.
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