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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)

MINIMUM THICKNESS OF TANK WALLS

Transmitted by the Government of Spain*

DEFINITION OF THE SAFETY OBLIGATIONS OF UNLOADERS

<i>Summary:</i>	The purpose of this proposal is the inclusion of an entry for “unloader” among the participants defined in 1.4.3.
<i>Measures to be taken:</i>	Include a new 1.4.3.x.

* Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT-III/2003/4.

Introduction

The obligations of the unloader appear only in paragraph 1.4.2.3 concerning the obligations of the consignee. “If the consignee makes use of the services of other participants (unloader, cleaner, decontamination facility, etc.) he shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the requirements of 1.4.2.3.1 have been complied with.” It seems that the unloader’s obligations are undertaken indirectly by the consignee.

The unloader’s obligations, however, are of similar importance to those of other participants.

Proposal

Add a new paragraph 1.4.3.x:

“1.4.3.x *Unloader*

1.4.3.x.1 In the context of 1.4.1, the unloader has the following obligations in particular:

- (a) he shall ensure that all the requirements of RID/ADR concerning the unloading of wagons/vehicles are complied with and that all necessary operations are performed;
- (b) he shall, when unloading the packed dangerous goods or uncleaned empty packagings, check whether the packagings have been damaged. He may not unload a package the packaging of which is damaged (e.g. a packaging which is not leakproof which may lead to leakages or the possibility of leakages of the dangerous substance) until appropriate measures have been taken (e.g. salvage packagings have been used); this obligation also applies to empty uncleaned packagings;
- (c) he shall, when unloading dangerous goods from a vehicle, a large or small container, a tank, a wagon, a tank-container, an MEGC, a battery vehicle, a vehicle for bulk solids or a portable or movable tank, comply with the special requirements concerning unloading and handling.

He shall, prior to the departure of the tank, wagon, MEGC or vehicle:

- (i) clean any residues which have impregnated or stained the outside of the tank, wagon, MEGC or vehicle during unloading;

- (ii) issue and check the prescribed documentation for the return transport operation, in particular the transport document for uncleaned empty packagings and, where applicable, the instructions in writing for the driver;
- (iii) in addition, check that the special safety conditions for the return of the tanks are complied with, in particular, the rate of filling after any partial unloading and take note of the closure of valves and inspection openings.

1.4.3.x.2 The unloader may, however, in the case of 1.4.3.x.1 (a), rely on information and data made available to him by other participants.”

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