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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods  
(Seventy-seventh session, agenda item 4,  
Geneva, 25-29 October 2004)

**PROPOSALS OF AMENDMENTS TO ANNEXES A AND B OF ADR**

Definition of Bowsers under ADR

Transmitted by the Government of the United Kingdom

<b>Summary:</b>	A paper seeking to define certain portable receptacles known within the United Kingdom as 'bowsers' under ADR.
<b>Decision to be taken:</b>	To define 'bowsers' under ADR by creating a set of guidelines for their certification in certain circumstances as IBCs, otherwise as tanks.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	TRANS/WP.15/2004/29 INF.25 (76 <sup>th</sup> session) INF.20 (75th session).

**Introduction**

1. There exists the problem of defining under ADR the portable receptacle known within the United Kingdom and some other countries as a "bowser", namely, a type of tank or IBC carried on or fixed to a trailer. "Bowsers" are widely used throughout Europe, most often but not exclusively, for the transport of diesel fuel (UN 1202).

2. To solve the problem of how to define these portable receptacles under ADR, the United Kingdom submitted to the seventy-sixth session of WP.15 (3-7 May 2004) paper TRANS/WP.15/2004/29 seeking the views of ADR contracting parties. WP.15 acknowledged

that this was an issue that should be resolved under ADR. However, there was a divided opinion as to the appropriate method for defining these portable receptacles. Some Contracting Parties preferred the creation of a new receptacle type (option 4 in TRANS/WP.15/2004/29), but the majority preferred to define "bowsers" which met certain criteria as an IBC and otherwise as a tank (option 2 in TRANS/WP.15 /2004/29).

3. Following initial discussions the United Kingdom drafted INF.25 to reflect the views given by WP.15. Unfortunately due to pressure of time there was no discussion of INF 25. The UK now submits this paper, which incorporates the substance of INF.25, for discussion and possible adoption at the seventy-seventh session of WP.15.

### **Proposal**

1. Insert a new paragraph in Chapter 7.2 as follows:

“7.2.3 Portable receptacles, sometimes marketed under the term 'bowsers', shall be considered as IBCs if they meet the conditions set out below.

7.2.3.1 Portable receptacles shall meet the requirements of IBCs of type 31A, 31B or 31N as set out in ADR, other than 8.3.3;

7.2.3.2 Portable receptacles shall only be used for the carriage of liquid substances assigned an IBC packing instruction in Table A of Chapter 3.2, permitting the use of type 31A, 31B or 31N IBCs;

7.2.3.3 The portable receptacles shall not be fastened to a vehicle or trailer, other than temporarily for safety during carriage. Such temporary fastenings include purpose designed retention devices with or without screw fasteners. If the portable receptacle is permanently fitted to a vehicle or trailer, for example by welding or non-return bolts, the receptacle shall no longer be considered an IBC.”

2. In 8.2.2.3.2, insert a new sub-paragraph (o) to read as follows:

“ (o) for portable receptacles, sometimes marketed under the term "bowsers", and considered to be IBCs, knowledge of appropriate filling and discharge systems.”

### **Justification**

To achieve a consistent definition of a "bowser" across all ADR Contracting Parties, leading to increased freedom of trade and consistency of enforcement.

### **Safety implications**

None; either the requirements of an IBC or a tank will apply.

**Feasibility**

No problem.

**Enforcement**

Increased clarity over the definition of "bowsers" would lead to greater consistency in enforcement throughout all ADR contracting parties.

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