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Agenda item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to annexes A and B of ADR: new proposals

Requirements for construction and equipment for MEMUs

Transmitted by the Government of Germany*

Summary

Executive summary: Sufficiently large bursting discs or other suitable means on MEMU-mounted tanks for ammonium nitrate are to prevent an unacceptable build-up of pressure in the tank.

Action to be taken: Concise formulation of this protection target and deletion of an incorrect requirement.

Related documents: None.

Introduction

1. In connection with the requirement of safety-related adequate protection against possible excess internal pressure in MEMU-mounted tanks which contain ammonium nitrate of UN Nos. 1942 and 3375, it is considered necessary to amend the wording of the relevant sub-sections of Chapter 6.12.

* The present document is submitted in accordance with paragraph 1(c) of the terms of reference of the Working Party, as contained in document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/190/Add.1, which provides a mandate to "Develop and update the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR)".

2. Under the current wording of 6.12.3.1.2 and 6.12.3.2.2, tanks for which a safety valve is required in accordance with 6.8.2 shall also have a bursting disc, or other suitable means of pressure relief. Bursting discs or other suitable means, the type and size of which are to be determined by the competent authority, are only considered necessary for tanks containing ammonium nitrate. The equipment of MEMU-mounted tanks for other substances is already regulated in 6.12.3.1.1. This also covers the requirement of safety valves.
3. As ammonium nitrate tanks in particular must have special equipment - bursting discs or other suitable means -, this requirement is to be highlighted.

Proposal

4. In 6.12.3.1, for tanks with a capacity of 1000 litres or more:
 - Amend 6.12.3.1.2 to read as follows:

“6.12.3.1.2 Tanks for UN 3375 and UN 1942 shall be equipped with a bursting disc or other suitable means for pressure relief, approved by the competent authority.”.
 - In 6.12.3.2, for tanks with a capacity of less than 1000 litres:
 - Replace the second sentence of 6.12.3.2.2 with the following:

“Tanks for UN 3375 and UN 1942 shall be equipped with a bursting disc or other suitable means for pressure relief, approved by the competent authority.”.

Justification

5. It would be a mistake with consequences for safety not to equip tanks for ammonium nitrate of UN 3375 and UN 1942 with a bursting disc. The current wording of 6.12.3.1.2 and 6.12.3.2.2 could, however, lead to consider that as the tank-code in Column (12) of Table A of ADR does not explicitly require a safety valve for these tanks, then, under 6.12, a bursting disc is also not required. This problem can be solved by the present proposal.
