

Report from the CTIF Legislation Working Group, Brielle, May 2010

Present: Erik Bleken (chair), Mario Starčević, Bill Atkinson, Hans Mucska, Jürgen Langenberg, Jos Post

The first item of discussion was an update on the paper for an Emergency Action Code system to be incorporated into ADR/RID/ADN.

The actions from the last meeting were for each member of the commission to contact their national representatives (details provided by Erik) and to obtain comments on the draft paper and send them to Bill. Comments have so far been received from the UK and German representatives.

There was some discussion about the need to make some technical changes to the report. Some comments had also been received from Dieter Nüssler to query some of the codes assigned. In response, the approach agreed was to replace the full list of codes in the appendix with some examples of codes. There are a set of algorithms used to assign the codes and the suggestion is that if these can be sourced by Bill in the time available, they would also be included in the paper.

The paper refers to a number of relevant paragraph numbers that need to be revised. However this work has not been completed, specifically to ensure that all relevant RID and ADN paragraph numbers are also listed. After some discussion, it was decided to proceed with introducing the paper to the first available Joint Meeting in September (deadline for paper submission is around June 18th) and to wait for all of the detail to be completed would reduce the time for debate and should the proposal fail, would prove to be wasted effort. Nevertheless the detail that has already been completed will be kept in the paper to show that the proposal has gravitas and is in some revised draft (Draft 7) to reflect all of these changes will be circulated to all members of the Hazchem Commission following the meeting and by June 4th, ready to submit in time for discussion at the September Joint Meeting

ACTION: BA to revise the draft paper and circulate to all members of the Commission

The big question remains on who will be present at the September Joint Meeting on behalf of CTIF to propose the paper. Jürgen pointed out that the German national representative will not speak on behalf of the paper. There are also issues with the UK proposing this, Norway will not propose it and the views of the Austrian representative were unknown. Therefore the sub-group was unable to resolve this issue and agreed to refer the matter for discussion at the plenary Commission meeting on Saturday.

ACTION: Plenary Commission Session to agree attendance and approach to Joint Meeting

The next item was a discussion on flammable gas cylinders posed by Jürgen. He outlined some recent incidents in Germany and posed the following question:

Do we see a need of stronger transportation rules for bundles of cylinders with flammable gases?

Incidents

Münster Jan 21, 2008

Gas leakage from the manifold of a bundle of 12 cylinders of acetylene (144 kg) was noticed at a transport stop. There was the danger of explosion in the vicinity. Without intervention, the 144 kg of gas would have escaped and caused an explosive atmosphere.

Meschenich near Cologne Apr 3, 2001

On 3rd April 2001, a cylinder trailer fell on its side in Meschenich near Cologne when the driver tried to avoid a hare crossing the road. A connecting tube to one of the five bundles of [an unknown flammable] cylinders started to leak. The fire fighters isolated the scene of the accident and controlled the gas concentration until the trailer could be removed. There was no danger for the environment. Neither has the hare so far complained about the damage to him.

After some discussion, the following amendment to ADR was proposed:

In P200 of ADR (page 106), insert the following sentence after "Pressure receptacles shall be closed and leakproof as to prevent escape of the gases" insert ". Each cylinder within a bundle shall be fitted with an individual valve that shall be closed during carriage"

During the discussion, Hans identified some possible objections to the proposal from the gas industry on the grounds on practicality where large numbers of cylinders have been grouped together in packs. However it was proposed to put the question to all members of the Hazmat Commission for consideration in relation to their own national experiences.

ACTION: All Commission members to offer feedback on the above proposal to Erik

The third item on the agenda was concerning a questionnaire developed by Mario Starčević of Croatia with regard to national laws on the transport of dangerous goods etc

Mario agreed to talk to the plenary meeting to add further explanation to the type of information he hopes to collect and for what purpose and to elicit further responses from the national delegates.

Prevention of accidents in transport and storage.

How do the Fire Service carry out the inspections. Who is responsible?

How many specific regulations are there for dangerous goods.