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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
(Bern, 28 May - 1 June 2001)

CHAPTER 5.3: PLACARDS ON MULTI-COMPARTMENT TANKS

Joint proposal by the Governments of Switzerland and Liechtenstein *

The secretariat has received from the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) the proposal reproduced below.

It was decided during the RID/ADR Joint Meeting in Geneva (13-24 March 2000), with reference to the affixing of placards on multi-compartment tanks, not to adopt for the time being the text of the United Nations Model Regulations and the IMDG Code, according to which placards should be affixed on each compartment of multi-compartment tanks (see TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/80-OCTI/RID/GT-III/2000-A, para. 117). The decision was founded in particular on the fact that it serves no purpose to increase the number of placards on multi-compartment tanks containing the same substances or substances requiring the same placards. Since not all delegations supported this decision, delegations not in favour were requested to submit a proposal.

* Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT-III/2001/29.

Switzerland and Liechtenstein are of the opinion that the marking of tanks and the affixing of placards to them are justified, first and foremost in the event of an incident, to make the emergency services aware of existing dangers while still at a safe distance. Switzerland and Liechtenstein do indeed consider, to derogate from the text of 5.3.1.1.4 of the Model Regulations, that it is sufficient to affix a single placard on the sides of multi-compartment tanks with the same content or with contents requiring identical placards. In the case of multi-compartment tanks containing substances requiring different placards, the relevant placards should be affixed on both sides of each compartment for safety reasons, as is also prescribed for the orange-coloured plates.

The present wording of 5.3.1.1.4 for large containers and wagons/containers and transport units for packages should nevertheless be kept. The Swiss Firemen's Association supports this proposal.

Proposal

Switzerland and Liechtenstein request the Joint Meeting to discuss this proposal and to take a policy decision. If the principle of the proposal is adopted, they are prepared to draft the amendments to the relevant texts for the next meeting and have them put to the vote.
