



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2003/50
4 June 2003

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

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)

DEFINITION OF HERMETIC TANKS

Transmitted by the Government of Belgium */

1. INTRODUCTION

During the session of the RID/ADR Joint Meeting held in Bern from 24 to 28 March 2003, the definition of “hermetically closed tank” was changed as follows :

“Hermetically closed tank” means a tank for the carriage of liquids with a calculation pressure of at least 4 bar, or for the carriage of solid (powdery or granular) substances of any calculation pressure, whose openings are hermetically closed and which:

- is not equipped with safety valves, bursting discs, other similar safety devices or vacuum valves, or

*/ Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT-III/2003/50.

- *is equipped with safety valves preceded by a bursting disc according to 6.8.2.2.10, or*
- *is not equipped with safety valves, bursting discs, other similar safety devices but is provided with vacuum valves, as allowed by an applicable special provision of 6.8.4, or*
- *is equipped with safety valves preceded by a bursting disc according to 6.8.2.2.10 and with vacuum valves, as allowed by an applicable special provision of 6.8.4.*

(See point 85 of the preliminary report TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2003/CRP.1 and point 4.1 of the report of the tank working group INF. 50).

2. DEFICIENCIES

- 2.1. In this rewritten definition, the fourth indent is already covered by the second one (because the text of the second indent is too general).
- 2.2. The sequence of the cases, covered by the different indents, is not the most logical one: it should lead from “no safety equipment present” to “the maximum of safety equipment present” (or the reverse).
- 2.3. The text of the third indent is grammatically wrong.

3. PROPOSAL

Replace the definition of “hermetically closed tank” with :

“Hermetically closed tank” means a tank for the carriage of liquids with a calculation pressure of at least 4 bar, or for the carriage of solid (powdery or granular) substances of any calculation pressure, whose openings are hermetically closed and which:

- is not equipped with safety valves, bursting discs, other similar safety devices or vacuum valves, or
 - is not equipped with safety valves, bursting discs or other similar safety devices, but is provided with vacuum valves as allowed by an applicable special provision of 6.8.4, or
 - is equipped with safety valves preceded by a bursting disc according to 6.8.2.2.10, but not with vacuum valves, or
 - is equipped with safety valves preceded by a bursting disc according to 6.8.2.2.10, and with vacuum valves as allowed by an applicable special provision of 6.8.4.
-