

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 (Bern, 24-28 March 2003)

Paragraph 1.2.1: Definitions

Comments concerning OCTI/RID/GT-III/2003/29 (UIC)

Transmitted by Germany

The subject of UIC's application is to define general terms such as boiling point and initial boiling point, so that natural gas condensates can be classified correctly. The problem with natural gas condensates is at the moment that they cannot be classified correctly. According to the manufacturers, the vapour pressure of these substances is below 110 kPa. The initial boiling point, however, is below 35°C. Classification as a substance of packing group II according to ADR/RID is therefore not possible.

As a solution to this problem it is suggested to introduce a definition of the initial boiling point into para. 1.2.1 of ADR/RID. This definition is derived from a determination method (ASTM D86-01) which in the opinion of the experts from Germany does not seem suited for the correct determination of the fractions of highly volatile components. Modern methods work on the widely used principle of gas chromatography (ISO 3924, EN under preparation) and increasingly replace the conventional methods.

A distillation method prescribing conventional condensation for the collection of the distillate will always be incapable of detecting the fraction of highly volatile components. Thus, one classification problem with regard to the natural gas condensate is solved but the risk arises for other substances of packing group I to determine an initial boiling point which is higher than the real one. Therefore it does not seem appropriate to introduce the boiling point definition (with reference to the ASTM standard) into the general part of ADR/RID. The definitions in para. 1.2.1 should not be restricted by the provision that they apply to some UN numbers only.

If, due to product-specific properties, a specific classification is necessary, a special note in the respective class or a special provision for the corresponding UN number should be created.

As the situation for some other UN numbers might be similar to that of the natural gas condensates it is suggested laying down a new special provision. This would also simplify the adaptation for other UN numbers.
