

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the  
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Reports of informal working groups**

**Period of validity of type approvals and transition measures for standards**

Transmitted by the European Cylinder Makers Association (ECMA)

**Introduction**

1. Following the decision of the Joint Meeting when discussing ECMA's proposals on the period of validity of type approval certificates and transitional measures for standards in paper 2007/42, a meeting of the informal working group was held in Brussels on 20<sup>th</sup> February. Representatives of Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland, EIGA and ECMA attended and the UK had sent its apologies.
2. ECMA had previously circulated a questionnaire to the working group and, based on the responses received, had also circulated a discussion paper and draft text.
3. This paper presents the work to date and the working group would welcome comments and the agreement of the Joint Meeting to continue its work.

**Type approval certificates**

4. The working group agreed that type approval certificates should be limited to a maximum life of ten years. This will have the advantage of giving certainty to the manufacturer and ensuring that type approvals were subject to thorough review at least every ten years. Furthermore it will reduce the number of "old" type approvals and require action of the applicant for a new or renewed type approval.
5. It was further agreed that tanks, battery vehicles/wagons and MEGCs should be treated in the same way as pressure receptacles.
6. It was also considered essential that type approvals should be reviewed during their ten year period for conformity with the provisions of the RID/ADR/ADN. The discussions on who should take responsibility for these reviews are continuing. At this time the majority are in favour of allocating the task to the relevant body that issued the type approval certificate, which is the body entitled to withdraw its own certificates. It was

further pointed out, that a change in the regulations does not automatically lead to a withdrawal or modification of an existing type approval.

7. Accordingly, the following text was drafted.

8. Draft proposal:

1.8.7.2.4 The type approval certificate shall be valid for a maximum of ten years. If within that period the relevant technical requirements of RID/ADR/ADN have significantly changed, the relevant body which issued the type approval shall withdraw it.

Type approvals may be renewed provided the relevant body is satisfied that the manufacturer can maintain conformity to the current relevant provisions of RID/ADR/ADN.

9. The words “relevant technical requirements have significantly changed” were intended to convey that type approvals should not be withdrawn if the changes either do not have a bearing in the product being manufactured or only require changes having negligible impact on the manufacturing process and consequent safety of the product. Such decisions are not readily defined, so the working group agreed that decision on withdrawal must be made by the competent authority or its delegated inspection body. It was pointed out, that the Joint Meeting in adopting amendments may indicate the relevance of an amendment concerning existing type approvals.

10. However, some delegates were sceptical that the body issuing the type approval certificate would carry out this task effectively and considered that the body supervising manufacture should have a duty to inform about a significant change in regulations and by that initiate the withdrawal of certificates.

#### **Extended transition for EN ISO standards**

11. The second element of the ECMA proposal concerned allowing existing type approval certificates to be used to the end of their period of validity when the EN standards referenced in them had been replaced in the regulations by their EN ISO equivalents. It was agreed that such extended validity would be feasible based on the principle discussed in the above paragraph. However, such extended transition periods could not be automatic and each case must be considered on its merits.

12. The working group agreed that the case for extending the transitional periods of standards and setting the length of that period should be made by industry to the CEN Consultant who in turn would ask for a decision from the Joint Meeting based on a recommendation from its Standards Working Group.

13. The way such extended life for obsolescent standards would be shown in the regulations was discussed and consensus was reached that it should be given in the standards tables in 6.2.4 and 6.8.2.6.

14. The table below shows examples how the information could be presented, but it needs further development to improve the ease of understanding. The column headings may need revision, or an extra column may be added.
15. The important concepts were:
- New type approvals must use the most recently listed alternative.
  - The principle of the above draft text for 1.8.7.2.4 allows existing type approval certificates to continue as long as they are in conformity with the provisions of ADR/RID/ADN including listed standards.
  - The table should provide a date beyond which the earlier standard must be set aside.

Reference	Title of document	Applicable sub-sections and paragraphs	Mandatory application for pressure receptacles constructed	Application authorized for pressure receptacles constructed
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
EN 1964-1:1999	Transportable gas cylinders – Specifications for the design and construction of refillable transportable seamless steel gas cylinders of capacity from 0.5 litres up to 150 litres – Part 1: Cylinders made of seamless steel with a Rm value of less than 1 100 MPa	6.2.3.1 and 6.2.3.4	As from 1 January 2009 until 31 December 2010	Before 1 January 2009; from 1 January 2011 until 31 December 20XX for existing type approvals
EN ISO 9809-1:2007	Gas cylinders — Refillable seamless steel gas cylinders - Design, construction and testing — Part 1: Quenched and tempered steel cylinders with tensile strength less than 1 100 MPa	6.2.3.1 and 6.2.3.4	As from 1 January 2011 for new or renewed type approvals	
EN 1975:1999 (except Annex 6)	Transportable gas cylinders – Specifications for the design and construction of refillable transportable seamless aluminium and aluminium alloy gas cylinders of capacity from 0.5 litres up to 150 litres	6.2.3.1 and 6.2.3.4		Before 1 July 2005
EN 1975:1999 + A1:2003	Transportable gas cylinders – Specifications for the design and construction of refillable transportable seamless aluminium and aluminium alloy gas cylinders of capacity from 0.5 litres up to 150 litres	6.2.3.1 and 6.2.3.4	As from 1 January 2009 until 31 December 2010	Before 1 January 2009; from 1 January 2011 until 31 December 20XX for existing type approvals

Reference	Title of document	Applicable sub-sections and paragraphs	Mandatory application for pressure receptacles constructed	Application authorized for pressure receptacles constructed
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
EN ISO 7866:2008	Gas cylinders — Refillable seamless aluminium alloy gas cylinders — Design, construction and testing	6.2.3.1 and 6.2.3.4	As from 1 January 2011 for new or renewed type approvals	
EN 14638-1:2006	Transportable gas cylinders – Refillable welded receptacles of a capacity not exceeding 150 litres – Part 1: Welded austenitic stainless steel cylinders made to a design justified by experimental methods	6.2.3.1 and 6.2.3.4	As from 1 January 2011	Before 1 January 2011

### **Technical codes**

16. The working group confirmed its agreement with the current arrangements for withdrawing technical codes within two years of the first referencing of a standard covering the same subject in the regulations.
17. However, it thought there was a need for further discussion to develop more precise instructions on the basis for introducing a new technical code “to reflect scientific and technical progress”. It was considered unclear what will be allowed in future, since for example, it would be possible to introduce a technical code when the technical progress gained was only greater convenience of manufacture. Such codes would undermine the harmonisation which was being sought by the mandatory application of standards. In this context it was mentioned by Germany that for special cases like “salvage pressure drums” on the basis of 6.2.5 of RID/ADR/ADN 2009 specific technical codes may be necessary.

### **Other matters**

18. The working group discussed paper INF. 10 which has been submitted by Sweden. It agreed that 1<sup>st</sup> January was the correct starting date for the mandatory application of standards since each had been preceded by two years advance notice of mandatory application and there was no need to add a further six months transition.
19. In considering the relationship between standards and the provisions of the regulations, the working group concluded that future proposals for changes to ADR/RID/ADN should take into account any consequential impact on existing type approvals as well as referenced standards.

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