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RID/ADR/ADN

Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Berne, 14 - 18 March 2016)

Agenda item 2: Tanks

Special provision 640

Proposal transmitted by the Secretariat of OTIF

Introduction

1. Special provision 640 of RID/ADR/ADN reads as follows:

"640 The physical and technical characteristics mentioned in column (2) of Table A of Chapter 3.2 determine different tank codes for the carriage of substances of the same packing group in RID tanks.

In order to identify these physical and technical characteristics of the product carried in the tank, the following shall be added to the particulars required in the transport document, only in case of carriage in RID/ADR tanks:

"Special provision 640X" where "X" is the applicable capital letter appearing after the reference to special provision 640 in column (6) of Table A of Chapter 3.2.

These particulars may, however, be dispensed with in the case of carriage in the type of tank which, for substances of a specific packing group of a specific UN number, meets at least the most stringent requirements."

2. These particulars are required so that it can be determined whether the correct tank has been chosen in those cases in which different tank codes are prescribed on the basis of the physical and technical properties of the substance. These particulars may be dispensed with if a type of tank is used which, for a specific packing group of a specific UN number, meets the most stringent requirements.
3. For the 2015 edition of RID/ADR/ADN, the Joint Meeting decided to align 2.2.3.1.4 with the 18th edition of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. In connection with this, for the possibility of assigning viscous, flammable liquids with a flashpoint of not more than 23 °C to packing group III, the condition that the maximum capacity of the means of containment used for these substances may not be more than 450 litres was taken over from the UN Model Regulations.
4. The result of this decision is that for various entries for flammable liquids of packing group III with a flashpoint of not more than 23 °C and which are viscous in accordance with 2.2.3.1.4, the tank code in column (12) of Table A in RID/ADR Chapter 3.2 was deleted.
5. However, for the remaining entries of packing group III which are permitted for carriage in tanks and to which a tank code is thus still assigned in column (12) of Table A of Chapter 3.2, special provision 640 was not deleted from column (6).
6. This means that in these cases, special provision 640 must be entered in the transport document, even though it is no longer at all possible to select different tank codes.

Proposal

7. In Chapter 3.2, Table A, for UN numbers 1133, 1139, 1169, 1197, 1210, 1263, 1266, 1286, 1287, 1306, 1866, 1993 and 1999, for each first entry for packing group III in column (6), delete:

"640E".
