



INF. 11

10 November 2021

(English only)

RID: 13th Session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group
(Geneva, 15 – 19 November 2021)

Subject: Proposals on how to adjust RID Chapter 6.8 to consider extra-large tank-containers

Information transmitted by UIP and CEFIC

SUMMARY

Executive summary: The document introduces proposals on how to incorporate extra-large tank-containers into RID, regarding the designation and technical aspects.

Decision to be taken: None

Introduction

1. The topic “extra-large tank-containers” has been discussed in several OTIF meetings over the past years. Recently, the topic was discussed by the working group on tanks during the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting (Berne, 15 – 19 March 2021).
2. The working group on tanks was asked to decide if a distinctive and explicit definition for “extra-large tank-containers” is needed. Whereas the approach for a respective definition was endorsed, the working group on tanks could not decide on such since decisive criteria are unknown thus far. Furthermore, technical aspects such as the tank-containers wall thickness (6.8.2.1.18) were discussed. Thus far, no consent between the involved parties could be reached.
3. The working group on tanks reverted the open topics to the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group.

4. To accelerate discussions and to provide an initial proposal UIP and CEFIC discussed the topic bilaterally and developed the following approach/proposal.

Proposals

5. It is proposed to introduce a definition of “(liquid) bulk tank-container”, abbreviated as “BTC” for “extra-large tank-containers” to distinguish such from commonly known ISO tank-containers in RID/ADR 1.2.1.
6. Commonly used tank-containers for the transport of liquids in accordance with RID usually have lengths up to 30 feet, volumes of up to 36 000 liters and a maximum gross weight of 36 tons. Although exceptions can be found, most tank-containers can be classified within these ranges, accounting for the transportability on roads.
7. To technically distinguish “(liquid) bulk tank-containers” from common ISO tank-containers, it is proposed to introduce a differentiation based on the tank volume. BTC might be characterized by a volume of more than 40 000 liters, exceeding the capacity of common ISO tank-containers.
8. It is proposed to introduce a minimum wall-thickness of 4.5 mm in 6.8.2.1.18 regardless of any material for such BTC.

Technical justification

9. This approach is in line with the recent discussion on hinged manlids for tanks for the transport of liquids with a test-pressure of at least 0.4 MPa, where 40 000 liters shall be introduced as well and based on an earlier proposal of ITCO The volume base approach is independent from the product just loaded and its weight.

Further requirements

10. To protect the investments on (liquid) bulk tank-containers done so far, it is demanded to introduce a protective regime based on RID/ADR 1.6.4. Such should protect all (liquid) bulk tank-containers built before the proposed amendments become effective.
