

## Report from the CTIF Legislation Working Group, Prague, 1-2 Oct2010

Present: Erik Bleken (chair), Bill Atkinson, Hans Mucska, Jürgen Langenberg, Tore Eriksson

Items on the agenda:

1. Reaction of the Joint Meeting to the paper submitted for an Emergency Action Code system to be incorporated into ADR/RID/ADN.
2. Update on the proposal on flammable gas cylinders posed by Jürgen at the last meeting. *Do we see a need of stronger transportation rules for bundles of cylinders with flammable gases?*

### **Item 1**

An update had been provided to the plenary meeting by Bill Atkinson, highlighting the negative reaction of the Joint Meeting to the paper and the Informal Paper submitted by Switzerland. It was felt by those present that the Swiss arguments needed to be responded to.

The notes from Bill were also discussed and the next steps debated. The general feeling was that we should not abandon the proposal but to reconsider our approach. It is clear that there was a need to educate more widely and deeply on the concept of an Emergency Action Code and how this fits into incident response (which is a topic also seemingly not understood by the delegates).

Bill and Jurgen suggested a project to publish the information on the EACs on the internet and make this available to all emergency responders. It would need to be accompanied by information on how the codes are designed to be used. It is hoped that exposure to the codes would improve understanding and demand for the EAC as an approach.

Hans mentioned the grouping of ERI Cards provides generic and too little information. The consensus was that a proposal to introduce a 3 line plate would not be successful and therefore we must consider the case to replace the HIN with an EAC in time.

Jurgen thought it may take 4 or 5 years to spread the information and then look to replace the HIN with an EAC. Jurgen thinks that the more logical system is the EAC but questions whether it was possible to replace the HIN in Germany.

Tore also thought that there would be a problem in Sweden with replacing the HIN with EAC and mentioned the use of HIN by other responders than the Fire Services.

Tore mentions the free translation of ERG and suggested a systematic approach looking at placard design and mentioned the previous work of Dieter Nussler on this topic.

Ideas for new code designs were discussed including a combined system (Tore and Bill), use of a 5 character code (Hans). Hans suggested talking to CEFIC to see in which ways. Jurgen thinks that we should also look at the US system to ensure global harmonisation. Jurgen finalised the German position that only a 2-line plate would be acceptable.

The outcome was that the members of the group would work on a new proposal in time for the next meeting taking into account the constraints encountered and the features that are desired of a new code. As a starting point Hans also offered to draft a document summarising all current sources of information available to emergency responders and how to obtain improved information in the future.

**ACTION HM.**

Once we have formulated some further proposals, we will also need to make contact with CEFIC and the chemical industry to move forward on a suggested new approach. **ACTION BA, TE, HM, EB.**

## **Item 2**

There was no response from the other delegates on his proposal for the closure of flammable gas regulators during transport, but comments were made by Erik and Bill that the proposal seemed like a good idea. After some discussion, the following amendment to ADR was proposed:

In P200 of ADR (page 106), insert the following sentence after "Pressure receptacles shall be closed and leakproof as to prevent escape of the gases" insert ". Each cylinder within a bundle shall be fitted with an individual valve that shall be closed during carriage".

It was agreed that this would be written up as a formal proposal and put to the other members for comment: **ACTION EB.**