

RCC Rail Safety, Dangerous Goods, and Intelligent Transportation Systems Working Group: Alignment of Dangerous Goods Means of Containment Work Plan

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Preamble Text:

Currently, means of containment standards and special permits and approvals vary between Canada and the United States. Having different means of containment standards for dangerous goods represents one of the impediments for shippers on both sides of the border. Both countries will explore ways to enhance reciprocity with respect to means of containment standards, special permits and approvals. Initiatives additional to those identified in this plan identified by stakeholders or by either party may be considered if mutually agreed to both parties.

Stakeholder outreach:

The United States Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, will publish a notice of request for stakeholder input in the Federal Register under Docket Number PHMSA-2012-0058. The notice will enhance transparency and enable stakeholders to provide additional comments concerning the Dangerous Goods Working Group; the initiatives identified in the work plan; and overall United States-Canada regulatory cooperation and the RCC process with respect to the transportation of dangerous goods.

Timelines and Deliverables:

Action Plan Initiative	Work to better align Canadian and U.S. standards on the containment of dangerous goods			
Deliverable outcome	Both countries will explore ways to enhance reciprocity with respect to recognition of standards for means of containment as well as with respect to recognition of special permits and approvals, which may result in reduced costs for approvals, product testing, and all costs associated with export certification. Initiatives additional to those identified in this plan identified by stakeholders or by either party may be considered if mutually agreed to by both parties.			
Action items	Initiative 1: Establishment of Memorandum of Cooperation Arrangement (MCA) that will provide a framework for continued collaboration with respect to the mutual recognition of containment standards between both countries provided that an	Initiative 2: Develop enhanced mutual recognition with respect to gas cylinders provided that an equivalent level of safety can be maintained.	Initiative 3: Develop enhanced mutual recognition with respect to tank trucks (cargo tanks) provided that an equivalent level of safety can be maintained.	Initiative 4: Develop mechanisms for mutual recognition of approvals between both countries provided that an equivalent level of safety can be maintained.

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Interim Deliverables				
3-6 Months	Identify key domestic and international forums pertinent to the development of means of containment standards where collaboration will enhance the implementation of consistent standards and regulations.	Identify areas where standards and approval processes for gas cylinders could be better aligned/recognized.	Identify areas where standards and approval processes for tank trucks (cargo tanks) could be better aligned/recognized.	Establish a list of opportunities for enhanced recognition of approvals issued by each country.
6-12 Months	Develop a working plan to ensure that participation in such forums is whenever possible coordinated between the participants or where joint participation is not feasible that appropriate information sharing mechanisms are in place.	Where the respective regulatory regimes result in an equivalent level of safety – identify means for enhanced mutual recognition of approvals.	Where the respective regulatory regimes result in an equivalent level of safety – identify means for enhanced mutual recognition.	Compare methodologies, including risk assessment methods and other parameters used to determine safety equivalency or, in the case of classification approvals, the equivalency of such classifications.
12-18 Months	Draft agreement parameters specifically addressing each forum and ensuring collaboration mechanisms exist that include bridging of appropriate technical expertise as needed.	Identify mechanisms to better align mutual recognition of approvals.	Identify mechanisms to better align mutual recognition of approvals .	Identify specific mechanisms to enhance mutual recognition of approvals between both countries provided that an equivalent level of safety can be maintained.
Beyond 18 Months	Implement mechanisms to ensure national standards and regulations are amended to maintain alignment wherever possible taking into account agreement parameters.	Implement mechanisms identified to better align gas cylinder mutual recognition of approvals.	Implement mechanisms identified to better align tank truck (cargo tank) mutual recognition of approvals.	Implement permanent mechanisms that will enhance the mutual recognition of approvals between both countries.

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