



29<sup>th</sup> August 2013

**Road Tank Vehicles manufactured by GRW Engineering (Pty) Ltd and certified by Bureau Veritas and operating in Ireland**

Dear Sir /Madam

The Health and Safety Authority (Authority) have been informed by the United Kingdom Department for Transport (DfT) that tanks constructed and supplied into the UK and Ireland by GRW Engineering (Pty) Ltd, South Africa, via GRW Engineering UK Ltd, are deficient with regard to certification issued by Bureau Veritas (South Africa and UK) and following further inspection and testing carried out in the UK, a number of tanks have been found to have quality issues that may require remedial action.

Extensive work has been undertaken to date and is continuing in the UK under the control of the DfT and the issues are being treated as high priority and GRW is fully engaged with this work. The UK government are engaging with industry experts, appointed authorised inspection bodies (Bureau Veritas) and other stakeholders to precisely identify the issues and develop a programme of action to address all of the deficiencies.

The Authority appreciates the potential severity of the situation to individual operators and will be working closely with DfT and other parties to provide information as it becomes available and to take all necessary action to ensure the safe operation of all tank vehicles.

Along with this industry notification, the Authority is issuing a Competent Authority Exemption, similar to that currently issued by DfT, to allow the immediate continued use of these tanks with in the State based on a risk analysis of available information.

*Certification*

Due to the established invalidity of the initial certification, affected tank vehicles no longer hold a recognised type approval certificate and therefore subsequent certification based on the original documentation issued by the inspection body is also invalid. At this point and until otherwise certified, all affected tanks are deemed to be non-ADR tanks and therefore appropriate restrictions in use apply.

*Tank construction quality*

Findings to date have indicated that irregularities exist in radiography. These findings are subject to on-going work to establish what the irregularities are and how significant they are in relation to weld integrity.

Some man-way flanges have also been found to be out of specification regarding flatness. GRW are developing a procedure by which those tanks or individual man-way flanges may be brought back in to specification.

Other quality issues are also being addressed, all of which will also be reviewed in a wider context, in that all tank vehicles from all manufacturers will be subject to a heightened review of compliance in order to confirm general standards within the tank manufacturing industry as a whole.

*Immediate continued use of affected tanks*

As information becomes available the Authority may specify additional provisions to be applied to the inspection and use of these tanks.

Operators should be contacted by their tank supplier in due course. The supplier should be in a position to provide additional information on some of the issues raised by this notice.

Tank vehicles should in the interim be presented as normal for routine, periodic/intermediate tank testing.

However it is important to note that vehicles issued with an ADR annual vehicle approval certificate may only be issued with a "National Transport Only" certificate with immediate effect. This decision applies retrospectively to all GRW tanks in operation in Ireland.

Tanks that are currently operating into Northern Ireland or in to Great Britain, i.e. those currently holding an ADR vehicle approval certificate may only continue to do so if authorised by the relevant competent authority in those jurisdictions. The Department for Transport in the UK has issued such an authorisation allowing affected Irish tank vehicles to operate in Britain, but at this point in time there is no equivalent authorisation in operation in Northern Ireland. Should this situation change information will be posted on the HSA web site, [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie) and by referring to the ADR web pages.

*Tank inspection*

Information relevant to any change to the tank inspection regime is yet to be fully assessed and therefore until further notice no additional testing or inspection requirements have been specified. However, a remedial action programme of inspection is in operation in the UK and this may in due course be replicated in Ireland.

The Authority will follow up in due course with a more detailed update as further information is presented.

Yours Faithfully ,



Dr. Sharon McGuinness

Assistant Chief Executive, Chemicals & Prevention Division