Sub: Operation of freight trains carrying liquid oxygen

To meet the sudden increase in demand of oxygen in the Country, Indian Railways have successfully operated freight trains for transporting liquid oxygen. These operations are likely to continue during the pandemic surge. Therefore, it is necessary to institute strict safety protocols.

Liquid oxygen may be transported in cryogenic ISO containers on BLC, BLCM and BLCS wagons in accordance with the guidelines issued by RDSO, while also facilitating the safety checks by the suppliers.

Oxygen may also be transported in special purpose road tankers loaded on BWTB wagons as RO-RO traffic in the appropriate ODC class. While doing so, all safety instructions for safe movement of ODC in electrified territory must be scrupulously followed.

For Class A ODC, the maximum height of the loaded consignment must not exceed 4650 mm. Tyres of the road vehicle may be deflated to ensure that this dimension is not exceeded and the minimum stipulated clearance from the OHE is always maintained.

Furthermore, the entire route must be checked to ensure safe dimensions of fixed structures, including OHE, especially under bridges and inside tunnels. In case any speed restrictions or other safety measure are necessary, these may be communicated to the concerned staff for compliance.

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