

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport
of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID safety Committee and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Explanatory material on the restructured RID/ADR

Working paper transmitted by the International Union of Railways (UIC/IUR)

The representative of the UIC/IUR presented on behalf of the Netherlands explanatory material on the restructured edition of RID (doc. OCTI/RID/CE/39/10a) and Add. 1-3) to the 39th session of the Committee of Experts for the RID in Berne 18-21 November 2002.

The chairman of the Committee asked the representative of UIC/IUR to present this explanatory material also to the Joint RID/ADR-meeting.

The UIC/IUR herewith presents the main part of this explanatory material: a systematic presentation of Table A of chapter 3.2, applicable as from 1 January 2003. In this table all 20 columns of RID and ADR have been included in order to make the differences clear between provisions of RID and ADR.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CLASSIFICATION OF GOODS AND CONDITIONS OF TRANSPORT

In the 1999 edition of RID/ADR, all goods were classified within the individual danger classes under items and, where applicable, letters. Goods with similar hazardous properties were grouped together under one item-letter combination in lists of substances. In principle, the conditions of transport for goods classified under the same item were similar. The system using items for determining the conditions of transport is not used in the restructured RID/ADR; henceforth, the conditions of transport are set out in Table A in the form of codes for all entries with a UN number and, where applicable, a packing group. As the individual digits of the UN number have no systematic meaning, the relationship between the classification of the goods on the basis of the hazardous properties and the conditions of transport can no longer be determined from a table showing the conditions of transport in UN number order.

However, instead of the former classification system using a Class, item number and, where applicable, a letter, a new classification code was introduced into the restructured RID/ADR based on the system used for classes 1 and 2. This code consists of one or more letters and, where applicable, a number. This classification code is based on the general n.o.s. entries in accordance with 2.1.1.2 and the packing groups in accordance with 2.1.1.3. The meaning of the letters in the classification code corresponds to the first letter of the description in English of the hazardous properties.

In principle, the classification code covers all the hazardous properties (principal and subsidiary risks).

In addition to these letters, the classification code may contain a number indicating additional properties the substance has that may be important for the conditions of transport, emergency measures etc., e.g. solid/liquid, organic/inorganic/organometallic, acid/basic.

In the systematic Table presented in this document, all the entries in Table A of Chapter 3.2 are listed along with the conditions of transport in order of Class, classification code and, where applicable, packing group.

Within the groups of substances that arise from this, containing goods with the same classification, a further grouping, where applicable, is made, according to the specific n.o.s. entries in accordance with section 2.1.1.2 C. To these specific entries were added, where possible, all the single entries for substances with a similar chemical or technical composition.

The main aim and purpose of this systematic Table is to present the relationships between the principles of classification and the conditions of transport.

This Table can be used to track down inconsistencies in the regulations and new proposals can be checked to see that they are consistent with the existing requirements.

This Table is also useful for training purposes. This layout makes it possible to find out which safety technology principles gave rise to the conditions of transport for certain groups of substance, e.g.:

- for which groups of substances is top discharge of portable tanks prescribed?
- which groups of substances are permitted for carriage in bulk?
- which groups of substances may be carried in large packagings?

Manufacturers and operators of tank-containers, rail tank wagons, tank vehicles and packagings, including IBCs, can find out using this Table which types of tank and packaging can be used for which groups of substances. This is particularly the case for tanks or packagings that have to meet certain special requirements.
