



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2004/9
21 May 2004

Original: ENGLISH

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
(Geneva, 13-17 September 2004)

Chapter 5.4: indication of a responsible person in the documentation

Transmitted by the International Union of Railways (UIC/IUR)

SUMMARY

Executive summary: The purpose of this proposal is to start a discussion in the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting about the merits of indicating a responsible person in the documentation in the case of shipments, other than Class 6.2.

Action to be taken: Amend 5.4.1.2.4.

Related documents: OCTI/RID/Not./40e) / TRANS/WP. 15/178.

The RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting has adopted in 5.4.1.2.4 a new provision for the documentation in the case of transport of substances of Class 6.2:

"In addition to the information concerning the consignee, the name and telephone number of a responsible person shall be indicated."

The UIC/IUR is in favour of this new provision, which enables the carrier to contact a responsible person in the case of any problem with the consignment.

We would, however, like to have some clarification on the following points:

What are the safety obligations according to Chapter 1.4 of this 'responsible person'?

What is the relation between the consignee and the 'responsible person'?

Does the responsible person act on behalf of the consignee?

All participants according to 1.4 are defined in section 1.2.1; the UIC/IUR would be in favour of a definition of the « responsible person » as well.

Moreover the UIC/IUR is of the opinion that the indication of a 'responsible person' should not be restricted to consignments of Class 6.2. In many cases it is extremely difficult for the (railway) carrier to trace a responsible person in the case of accidents or incidents. For instance:

An international railway transport of a consignment from France to Slovakia may involve five railway carriers subsequently, and the consignor might be an undertaking in Belgium. The situation is even worse in multimodal transport. For instance, a portable tank is shipped from the United States of America to India. As a part of the transport chain, the portable tank is carried by rail from the port of Rotterdam to the port of Livorno. Consignor and consignee for the rail part are undertakings in the container terminals in Rotterdam and Livorno. Unless the Multimodal Dangerous Goods Form is attached to the CIM-consignment note, the four railway carriers in the countries between Rotterdam and Livorno have no idea which responsible person should be contacted in emergency cases. The UIC/IUR therefore suggests to start a discussion for which consignments, other than Class 6.2, the indication of a « responsible person » in the documentation might be useful.

Justification

The availability of the name and telephone number of a responsible person will be very important in the case of irregularities and occurrences during carriage.

Safety implications

Large; the advice of a responsible person may be crucial for emergency response.

Feasibility

Most participants in the transport chain have already appointed a responsible person who can give advice in the case of occurrences.

Enforceability

The safety obligations of the responsible person should be established clearly.
