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Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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

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Agenda item 5 (b)

Comments on ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2007/51

Definition of Substance

Note by the secretariat

In document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2007/51, the Netherlands proposes to implement a new text for environmentally hazardous substances (aquatic environment) to harmonize with the GHS criteria and the IMDG Code and European Union Regulations. In Annex 2 of this document, amendments are proposed to 2.2.9.1.10.xx of RID/ADR/ADN (Classification criteria for environmentally hazardous substances) to align the criteria in 2.2.9.1.10.xx to those in the UN Recommendation and the IMDG Code par. 2.9.3.xx.

At the thirty-first session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the TDG in July 2007, the secretariat presented document INF.28. The secretariat noticed that the terminology used in the French version of Chapter 2.9 of the UN Model Regulations was not harmonized with that of the GHS for the same original English text.

In particular, the term “matières” is used in the French version of the GHS to designate not only substances but also solutions and mixtures of such substances while in the Model Regulations the same term is used as a synonym of “substances”.

The GHS gives a definition of substance. To harmonize the UN Model Regulations with the GHS, this definition has been introduced in Section 2.9.3 of the UN Model Regulations, together with the replacement of the word “matière” with “substance” in the French text (see Corrigendum 1 to the 15th revised edition).

If the amendments in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2007/51 were adopted, there would be a different terminology between the French version of 2.2.9.1.10.xx of RID/ADR/ADN and the text of the GHS for the same original English text.

Therefore the secretariat propose the amend the text of 2.2.9.1.10.1.1 as given in Annex 2 of ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2007/51 (amendments are underlined).

English

Amend 2.2.9.1.10.1.1 to read as follows:

"**2.2.9.1.10.1.1** Environmentally hazardous substances include, inter alia, liquid or solid substances pollutant to the aquatic environment and solutions and mixtures of such substances (such as preparations and wastes).

For the purposes of 2.2.9.1.10,

"Substance" means chemical elements and their compounds in the natural state or obtained by any production process, including any additive necessary to preserve the stability of the product and any impurities deriving from the process used, but excluding any solvent which may be separated without affecting the stability of the substance or changing its composition."

French

Modifier le 2.2.9.1.10.1.1 pour lire comme suit:

"**2.2.9.1.10.1.1** Les matières dangereuses pour l'environnement comprennent notamment les substances (~~matières~~ liquides ou solides) qui polluent le milieu aquatique, y compris leurs ~~et les~~ solutions et mélanges ~~de telles matières~~ (dont les préparations et déchets).

Aux fins du 2.2.9.1.10, on entend par :

"Substance", un élément chimique et ses composés, présents à l'état naturel ou obtenus grâce à un procédé de production. Ce terme inclut tout additif nécessaire pour préserver la stabilité du produit ainsi que toute impureté produite par le procédé utilisé, mais exclut tout solvant pouvant en être extrait sans affecter la stabilité ni modifier la composition ."

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