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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

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

Bern, 26-30 March 2007  
Agenda item 5

**PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO RID/ADR/ADN\***

**Part 1 of RID/ADR**

**Exemptions related to the nature of the transport  
operation - carriage of lithium batteries**

**Transmitted by the Government of France**

<p><i>Executive summary:</i> At the last session of the Joint Meeting in Geneva, the representative of France was asked to submit a new document concerning the carriage of lithium batteries. According to the rules in force, vehicles powered by lithium batteries and lithium cells contained in equipment are not admitted to traffic.</p>
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\* Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2007/14.

**Action to be taken:** Add a subsection 1.1.3.X entitled “Exemptions for the carriage of lithium cells contained in battery-powered vehicles or in equipment”:

The RID/ADR requirements shall not apply to:

- (a) Lithium batteries for the propulsion of a vehicle;
- (b) Lithium batteries for the operation of the equipment of a vehicle;
- (c) Lithium batteries for the operation of equipment transported in the vehicle as part of its use (laptop computer, measuring instrument, etc.).

## Introduction

For the carriage of lithium cells contained in battery-powered vehicles or in equipment, the current wording of RID/ADR does not:

- Permit coverage under the exemption provided by 1.1.3.1 (b), as the machinery is specified in Table A in chapter 3.2;
- Clearly allow for the application of UN 3171 (Battery-powered vehicle or Battery-powered equipment).

It is nonetheless possible that electric vehicles powered by lithium batteries will have to be transported. In addition, equipment unrelated to the drive train may be loaded or used for the operation of the vehicle and may be equipped with lithium batteries (laptop computers, for example).

RID/ADR requirements cannot be applied to the letter in such cases.

Considering these various points, it may be concluded that a lithium-battery-powered vehicle or one using a lithium battery in its equipment cannot be admitted to traffic.

It is proposed to resolve this problem with the following modifications:

## Proposal

Add an entry 1.1.3.X, as follows:

“1.1.3.1 Exemptions for the carriage of lithium cells contained in battery-powered vehicles or in equipment

The RID/ADR requirements shall not apply to:

- (a) Lithium batteries for the propulsion of a vehicle;

- (b) Lithium batteries for the operation of the equipment of a vehicle;
- (c) Lithium batteries for the operation of equipment transported in the vehicle as part of its use (for example, a laptop computer).”

**Justification**

In the light of the increasingly frequent use of lithium cells in batteries and equipment, RID/ADR should be adapted to technical advances and should allow the carriage of lithium batteries used for powering vehicles or for the operation of a vehicle’s equipment.

**Safety implications**

No problems are foreseen.

**Feasibility**

No problems are foreseen.

**Enforceability**

No problems are foreseen.

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