

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Interpretation of ADR

Interpretation of the definition "bag" in relation with the terms "package" and "receptacle" in 1.2.1 ADR

Transmitted by the Government of Romania

Summary

- Executive summary:** Request for an interpretation of the terms “bag” taking into account the definitions of the “packaging” and “receptacle” in 1.2.1 ADR
- Action to be taken:** Rewording of the terms „bag”, „packaging” and „receptacle” in 1.2.1 ADR.
- Related documents:** INF. 36 (Romania) - May 2010 session of the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting, ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2010/45 and INF.3 (Romania) – September 2010 of the Joint Meeting RID/ADR/ADN.

In section 1.2.1 ADR, the terms “bag”, “packaging” and “receptacle” are defined as follows:

1. *"Bag"* means a flexible packaging made of paper, plastics film, textiles, woven material or other suitable material;
2. *"Packaging"* means one or more receptacles and any other components or materials necessary for the receptacles to perform their containment and other safety functions;
3. *"Receptacle"* means a containment vessel for receiving and holding substances or articles, including any means of closing. This definition does not apply to shells.

Reductio ad absurdum: if we replace in the definition “packaging” the word “receptacle” with the phrase “containment vessel”, and in the definition of the “bag” we replace “packaging” with the phrase “containment vessel”, we come up with the following definition for the “bag”:

"Bag means a flexible containment vessel, made of paper ..."

In our view, this *“false statement”* is reached because:

1. The “packaging” was defined as a “receptacle” although it does not include all essential elements which are common to any type of “packaging”.
2. The “receptacle” was defined by means of one of its synonyms, the word “vessel” to which the word “containment” was added - a term that we consider to be superfluous, having in mind that the main function of the “vessel” or “receptacle” is to contain safely,

3. The definition of the “bag” uses the phrase of “flexible packaging”, which represents a type of packaging which does not exist in other parts of ADR.

Taking into account the above mentioned, we consider that the definitions in 1.2.1 “bag”, “packaging”, “receptacle” should be reworded.

Therefore, we would like to know the opinion of the Working Group on the current wording of the definitions “bag”, “packaging” and “receptacle”.
