

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Interpretation of ADR

23 April 2012

Section 5.4.3 and 8.1.5 Equipment

Transmitted by the Government of Sweden

Related documents: ECE/TRANS/WP.15/2009/10, ECE/TRANS/WP.15/2009/17

I. Introduction

1. Sections 5.4.3, Instructions in writing, and section 8.1.5, Miscellaneous equipment and equipment for personal protection, contains almost identical lists of equipment to be carried on board a transport unit.
2. The purpose is for the vehicle crew to carry out general actions and hazard specific emergency actions in case of an emergency.
3. That the equipment is carried on board is easy to check for the enforcement bodies, but the fact that some of the required equipment is not well defined can lead to difficulties for carriers.
4. ADR lays down uniform rules for the safe international transport of dangerous goods to ensure the proper functioning of the common transport market. For this reason, we believe it is important to reduce the possibility for different interpretation within different countries. EU Member States actions are also limited by directive 2008/68/EC. Still carriers are requested by the enforcement bodies not to use certain equipment. These requests have especially concerned the shovel and the collecting container.
5. It is mentioned in the instructions in writing that the members of the vehicle crew, where appropriate and safe to do so, should use on-board equipment to prevent leakages into the aquatic environment or the sewage system and to contain spillages. In these cases only small amounts of chemicals (5litres/kilos) will be dealt with.
6. All the equipment is often carried in a bag (can also be used as the collecting container) and this limits the size of the equipment.

II. Discussion

7. Sweden would like to know the view from other member states on what equipment is considered to be “a shovel”.
 - Could it be a dustpan? Evidently, a dustpan is not a shovel by wording, but in other languages it could be the same (French “pelle”, German “Schaufel”, Swedish “skyffel”).
 - Are there a minimum length of the shaft?

- Could the shovel be made from plastic if elevated temperature substances are collected?
- Should the shovel be made from spark proof material?
- Under which conditions can the container be made of plastic and what size should it have?

8. Sweden is of the opinion that all the equipment referred to in section 5.4.3 and 8.1.5 shall be appropriate for the job to be done, and it would be helpful if this is further explained e.g. in 8.1.5.1 or as an interpretation. It is neither desirable that a country has its own special requirements for the equipment, nor is it working in practice.
