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Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendment to RID/ADR/ADN: pending issues

Transport document for empty, uncleaned packagings

Transmitted by the Government of Belgium^{1, 2}

Introduction

1. For the transport of empty, uncleaned packagings and IBC's for reconditioning, remanufacturing, routine maintenance or repair, the transport document requirements are stipulated in RID/ADR/ADN 5.4.1.1.6.2.1:

"For empty packagings, uncleaned, which contain the residue of dangerous goods of classes other than Class 7, including empty uncleaned receptacles for gases with a capacity of not more than 1 000 litres, the particulars according to 5.4.1.1.1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) are replaced with "EMPTY PACKAGING", "EMPTY RECEPTACLE", "EMPTY IBC" or "EMPTY LARGE PACKAGING", as appropriate, followed by the information of the goods last loaded, as described in 5.4.1.1.1 (c).

See example as follows: "EMPTY PACKAGING, 6.1 (3)".

In addition, in such a case, if the dangerous goods last loaded are goods of Class 2, the information prescribed in 5.4.1.1.1 (c) may be replaced by the number of the class "2".

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2014–2015 (ECE/TRANS/240, para. 100, ECE/TRANS/2014/23, cluster 9, para.9.2).

² Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2015/24.

2. In practice it has proven almost impossible to use the above stated provision for transports of empty, uncleaned packagings and IBCs to reconditioning, remanufacturing, routine maintenance and repair installations.

These transports can have in one load several hundreds of packagings which can have contained dangerous goods with different main risks and subsidiary risks. This can mean that up to 50 combinations of main and subsidiary risks are possible in one load for a single transport operation, leading to an unnecessarily complex transport document.

3. For this reason, based on the request of the Belgian chemicals distribution sector in the middle of the 1990s, the Belgian authorities provided a national exemption for road transport (derogation 6-1997), which has been maintained until today, to use a more generalised entry in the transport document for a load of empty, uncleaned packagings which have contained different dangerous goods. Additionally, in some cases correct classification information of the residues of dangerous goods adhering to the inside of the packaging is difficult to verify.

4. In Germany a similar kind of exemption for the transport documentation for empty uncleaned packaging exists (exemption 18 S).

5. In the RID/ADR/ADN 2015 versions, UN 3509 was introduced for PACKAGINGS, DISCARDED, EMPTY UNCLEANED which also attracted a simplified mention in the transport document as stipulated in 5.4.1.1.19:

For packagings, discarded, empty, uncleaned, the proper shipping name specified in 5.4.1.1.1 (b) shall be complemented with the words "(WITH RESIDUES OF [...])" followed by the class(es) and subsidiary risk(s) corresponding to the residues, in the class numbering order. Moreover, 5.4.1.1.1 (f) does not apply.

Example: Packagings, discarded, empty, uncleaned having contained goods of Class 4.1 packed together with packagings, discarded, empty, uncleaned having contained goods of Class 3 with a Class 6.1 subsidiary risk should be referred to in the transport document as:

"UN 3509 PACKAGINGS, DISCARDED, EMPTY, UNCLEANED (WITH RESIDUES OF 3, 4.1, 6.1), 9".

6. It is clear that for the transport of UN conforming packagings, transported for reconditioning, remanufacturing, routine maintenance or repair, the provisions of 4.1.1.11 apply (excerpt taken from ADR 2015 version):

"Empty packagings, including IBCs and large packagings, that have contained a dangerous substance are subject to the same requirements as those for a filled packaging, unless adequate measures have been taken to nullify any hazard.

NOTE: *When such packagings are carried for disposal, recycling or recovery of their material, they may also be carried under UN 3509 provided the conditions of special provision 663 of Chapter 3.3 are met."*

And these packagings cannot be carried under UN 3509. For this reason, no simplified transport document with a single mention, completed by a reference to the different hazard classes is possible even though they present a lesser inherent risk in transport than the transport of UN 3509.

Proposal

7. For the reasons stated above, Belgium proposes the following modification to 5.4.1.1.6.2.1 of ADR/RID/ADN (new text underlined, deletions in strike-through):

5.4.1.1.6.2.1 For empty packagings, uncleaned, which contain the residue of dangerous goods of classes other than Class 7, including empty uncleaned receptacles for gases with a capacity of not more than 1 000 litres, the particulars according to 5.4.1.1.1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) are replaced with "EMPTY PACKAGING", "EMPTY RECEPTACLE", "EMPTY IBC" or "EMPTY LARGE PACKAGING", as appropriate, followed by the information of the goods last loaded, as described in 5.4.1.1.1 (c).

See example as follows: "EMPTY PACKAGING, 6.1 (3)".

~~In addition, in such a case, if the dangerous goods last loaded are goods of Class 2, the information prescribed in 5.4.1.1.1 (c) may be replaced by the number of the class "2".~~

(a) if the dangerous goods last loaded are goods of Class 2, the information prescribed in 5.4.1.1.1 (c) may be replaced by the number of the class "2".

(b) if the dangerous goods last loaded are goods of Classes 3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 8 or 9, the information of the goods last loaded, as described in 5.4.1.1.1 (c) may be replaced by the words "HAVING CONTAINED [...]" followed by the class(es) and subsidiary risk(s) corresponding to the different residues, in the class numbering order.

Example: Empty packagings, uncleaned, having contained goods of Class 3 carried together with empty packagings, uncleaned, having contained goods of Class 8 with a Class 6.1 subsidiary risk may be referred to in the transport document as:

"EMPTY PACKAGINGS, HAVING CONTAINED 3, 6.1, 8".
