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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**

Geneva, 19-29 September 2017

Item 5(b) of the provisional agenda

##### **Proposals for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN:**

##### **new proposals**

7 August 2017

### **Carriage of prohibited dangerous goods by post**

#### **Transmitted by the Government of the United Kingdom**

1. In the United Kingdom, freight and post undergoes screening before carriage by air, primarily for security reasons, but some dangerous goods are readily identifiable and intercepted on safety grounds. The United Kingdom competent authority for the transport of dangerous goods by air has raised concerns that there is, evidenced by occurrence reports, a high incidence of prohibited dangerous goods travelling by air as international and national post.
2. The United Kingdom Royal Mail intercepts around 100 000 postal items containing goods prohibited in the post each year, including over 5 000 shipments of lithium batteries each month. This mail originates both in the United Kingdom and from elsewhere. Investigations into these cases suggest that this issue usually results from an ignorance about the restrictions and prohibitions that exist concerning dangerous goods in the mail.
3. The Model Regulations place restrictions on dangerous goods in the mail in section 1.1.1.6, including reference to the Universal Postal Union Convention and the Acts of the Universal Postal Union. A similar provision appears in the ICAO Technical Instructions.
4. The adoption of a similar provision in RID/ADR would improve modal harmonisation across all modes and raise awareness of the restrictions on dangerous goods in the mail.
5. The United Kingdom considers that the provisions for a transport chain in 1.1.4.2 are not applicable to dangerous goods prohibited in international mail.
6. Thus, this proposal inserts the text contained in 1.1.1.6 of the Model Regulations (reproduced in annex) or similar giving the same effect in subsection 1.1.4.4, currently listed as (reserved) in RID and ADR, or as a new subsection to 1.1.4, which deals with the applicability of other regulations.
7. Subject to the views of the Joint Meeting, the United Kingdom may return with a formal proposal at the next session.

## Annex

In accordance with the Universal Postal Union Convention, dangerous goods as defined in these Regulations, with the exception of those listed below, are not permitted in mail transported internationally. Appropriate national authorities should ensure that provisions are complied with in relation to the international transport of dangerous goods. The following dangerous goods may be acceptable in international mail subject to the provisions of the appropriate national authorities:

- a) Infectious substances, assigned to Category B (UN 3373) only, and solid carbon dioxide (dry ice) when used as a refrigerant for UN 3373; and
- b) Radioactive material in an excepted package conforming to the requirements of 1.5.1.5, the activity of which does not exceed one tenth of that listed in Table 2.7.2.4.1.2 and that does not meet the definitions and criteria of classes, other than Class 7, or divisions, as defined in Part 2.

For international movement by post additional requirements as prescribed by the Acts of the Universal Postal Union apply.

*NOTE: The Acts of the Universal Postal Union do not apply to the domestic transport of dangerous goods by mail. Domestic transport of dangerous goods in the mail is subject to the provisions of the appropriate national authorities.”*

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