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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

##### 106th session

Geneva, 13–17 May 2019

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

##### **Proposals for amendments to annexes A and B of ADR: miscellaneous proposals**

### **Transport by post of Class 7 excepted packages with limited activity**

**Transmitted by the Government of Switzerland\***

#### *Summary*

**Executive summary:** The IAEA Transport Regulations as well as the UN Model Regulations and subsequent agreements for the transport modes implement facilitated requirements for the transport of Class 7 excepted packages by post such as the reduced activity limit of one tenth of that permitted in the table 2.7.2.4.1.2 of the UN Model Regulations and 2.2.7.2.4.1.2 of the ADR, respectively. To enable continuous transport by post of these packages, the existing provisions in the UPU Convention are proposed for introduction into the ADR. The facilitations for transport by post are provided according to the UPU Convention.

**Action to be taken:** New special provision in Chapter 3.3

**Reference documents:** Informal document INF.4 of the session from the 105<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Party International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union: UPU Convention Manual. Berne, 2018

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\* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2018-2019, (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/237, annex V, (9.1)).

## Introduction

1. The IAEA Transport Regulations SSR-6 provides paragraph 580 particularly for the transport by post:

“A *consignment* that conforms to the requirements of para. 515, in which the activity of the *radioactive contents* does not exceed one tenth of the limits prescribed in Table 4, and that does not contain uranium hexafluoride, may be accepted for domestic movement by national postal authorities, subject to such additional requirements as those authorities may prescribe.”

2. The paragraph refers to the provisions for excepted packages (paragraph 515) and the table 4 which was introduced as the 2.2.7.2.4.1.2 in the ADR. The paragraph is still present in the 2018 edition of the IAEA Transport Regulations without changes.

3. The UN Model Regulations in paragraph 1.1.1.6 (b) recall that in accordance with the Universal Postal Union Convention the same exemption as provided above on the IAEA also applies for the international transport by post as follows:

“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.”

4. The air mode has implemented this provision as paragraph 2.4.2 (c) of the IATA-DGR:

“Radioactive material, provided that the activity does not exceed one tenth of that permitted in Table 10.3.D. The provisions relating to documentation (Subsection 10.8) do not apply to such radioactive material.”

5. The UPU Convention has introduced this provision for the post mode in article 19-006:

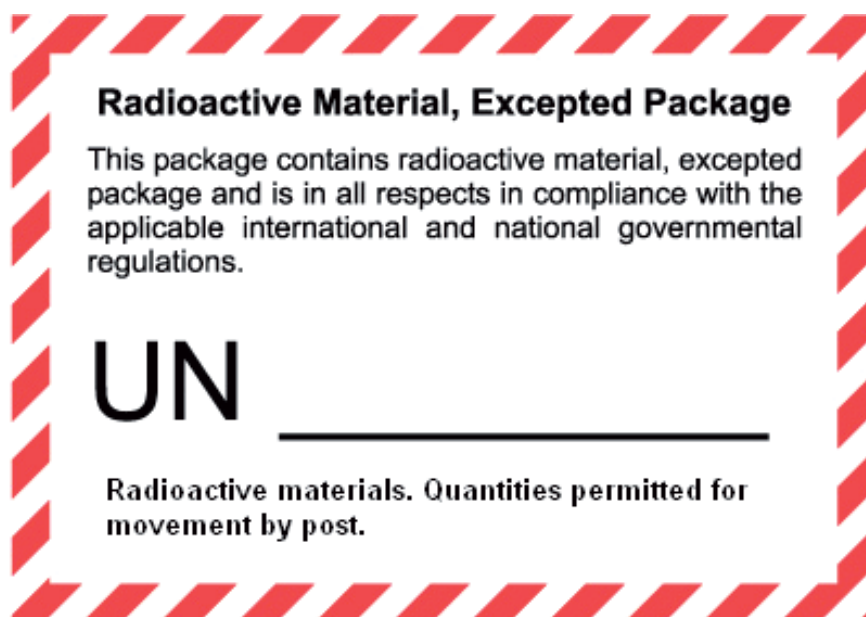
*1. Items containing radioactive materials, whose contents and make-up comply with the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency shall be admitted for conveyance by post subject to prior consent from the competent authorities of the country of origin provided the activity does not exceed one tenth of that permitted in Table 3 – Activity Limits for Excepted Packages as listed in the current edition of the IAEA TS-R-1 and does not contain uranium hexafluoride.*

*2. The outside packaging of items containing radioactive materials shall be marked by the sender with the label shown below indicating the applicable UN-number. It shall also bear, in addition to the name and address of the sender, a request in bold letters for the return of the items in the event of non-delivery.*

*3. The sender shall give his name and address and the contents of the item on the inner wrapping.*

*4. The label shown above shall be clearly crossed out, should the empty package be returned to the place of origin.*

6. The label mentioned in 4 is shown hereafter. This label allows the distinction of excepted packages respecting regular activity limits and those respecting the reduced activity limits permitted for transport by post:



Concerning safety aspects, the following comment has been added to the article 19-006:

■ **Commentary**

*1 As understood here, the conveyance by post of radioactive materials is restricted to consignments exempted from special conveyance prescriptions, within the meaning of the IAEA Regs for the safe transport of radioactive materials, because of the very low activity of their contents.*

7. The above mentioned provisions are introduced to enable the transport of excepted packages by post. With respect to the road mode (ADR), the continuous transport of excepted packages by post is not possible due to the fire-fighting equipment required by paragraph 1.1.3.6.2 of the ADR commonly. Multiple vehicles are not equipped with a 2 kg fire extinguisher (see examples in the annex). Therefore, post services for the road mode are not offered at all for Class 7 excepted packages.

8. Other dangerous goods providing a significant higher risk such as Class 3 material in limited quantities (up to 8 tons) can be transported by post without specific fire-fighting equipment requirements.

9. During the 105th session of the Working Party some delegations argued that the carriage requirement for fire-fighting equipment was applicable to all vehicles carrying dangerous goods and several delegations thought the special provision S5 applied to all types of transports of excepted packages and not only to transport by post. For these reasons they were not in favour of extending the exemption to all cases (paragraph 45 of the report). Others considered that the exemption could be addressed at the national level.

10. As already explained above, it is not true that the requirement for fire-fighting equipment is applicable to all vehicles carrying dangerous goods. In case of carriages following the chapters 3.4 and 3.5 this equipment is not required even if the quantities of dangerous could be very big. Regarding the application to all types of transports and not only by post, it is true that the exemption will be available to everybody. The reason is that such excepted packages are safe enough to already benefit of relaxation according to international organizations like the Universal Postal Union Convention, where the carriage of these goods is allowed, and according to the paragraph 580 of the IAEA Transport Regulations SSR-6.

11. The provisions for transport of excepted packages by post have been introduced in the UN Model Regulations and the IATA-DGR, but they are not fully introduced in the land and

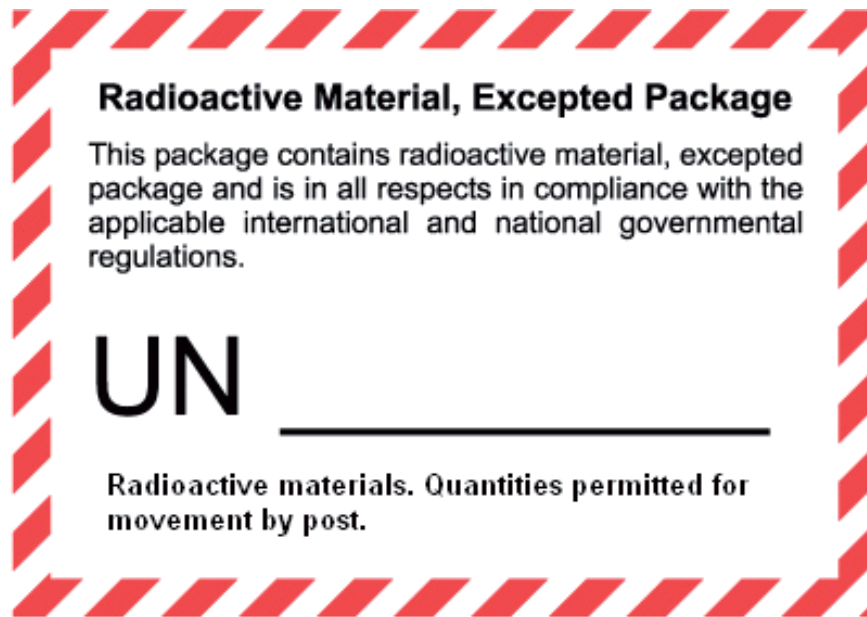
sea mode regulations. Even, the provisions in the dangerous goods regulatory framework are not fully harmonised with the provisions of the UPU Convention. To enable multimodal transport of excepted packages by post, in particular by air, road and rail, a special provision is presented based on the existing article 19-006 of the UPU Convention. The presented proposal benefits from the comment made in this article permitting facilitation for the transport by post justified by the IAEA Regulations.

## Proposal

12. The following text in bold letters should be added as special provision of chapter 3.3 of ADR. The special provision should be assigned to the entries UN 2910 and UN 2911:

**“SP XYZ Radioactive material in an excepted package that does not meet the definitions and criteria of classes, other than Class 7, or divisions, as defined in Part 2 offered for transport are not subject to the following provisions: 5.1.5.4, 7.5.11 CV33 (6), and are not subject to the requirements for fire-fighting equipment of 8.1.4.2 to 8.1.4.5, if they meet the following:**

- a) **Items containing radioactive materials, whose contents and make-up comply with the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency shall be admitted for conveyance by post subject to prior consent from the competent authorities of the country of origin provided the activity does not exceed one tenth of that permitted in Table 2.2.7.2.4.1.2 of these Regulations and does not contain uranium hexafluoride.**
- b) **The outside packaging of items containing radioactive materials shall be marked by the sender with the label shown below indicating the applicable UN-number. It shall also bear, in addition to the name and address of the sender, a request in bold letters for the return of the items in the event of non-delivery.**
- c) **The sender shall give his name and address and the contents of the item on the inner wrapping.**
- d) **The label shown below shall be clearly crossed out, should the empty package be returned to the place of origin.”.**



**NOTE:** As understood here, the conveyance by post of radioactive materials is restricted to consignments exempted from special conveyance prescriptions, within the meaning of the IAEA Regs for the safe transport of radioactive materials, because of the very low activity of their contents.

## Justification

11. Due to a reduced activity limit of one tenth for excepted packages of Class 7, facilitations for the transport have been proposed justified by the comment in the UPU Convention referencing the IAEA Regulations.

12. The proposal supports a continuous, multi-modal transport of Class 7 excepted packages with an reduced activity limit of one tenth of that provided by the Table 2.2.7.2.4.1.2 as originally intended by implementing paragraph 580 of the IAEA Transport Regulations in the Model Regulations and the subsequent agreements for the various transport modes including ADR. The packages are clearly identified by means of the already applied marking according to the UPU Convention.