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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, 21 September – 1 October 2021

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Harmonization with the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Harmonization of RID/ADR/ADN with the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Note by the secretariat*, **

I. General

1. The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Harmonization of RID/ADR/ADN with the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods met in Geneva on 21 to 23 April 2021 under the chairmanship of Mr. C. Pfauvadel (France).

2. Representatives of Albania, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), the European Conference of Fuel Distributors (ECFD), the European Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services (FEAD), the International Dangerous Goods and Containers Association (IDGCA), the International Road Union (IRU) and the International Union of Railways (UIC) participated in the session.

3. The session was held remotely in English, without interpretation. The documentation prepared by the secretariats, including the agenda, was issued as informal documents which were made available on the website of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division as follows:

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/HAR/10

Provisional agenda for the tenth session
(Secretariat)

* A/75/6 (Sect.20), para 20.51.

** Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2021/24.

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/HAR/2021/1	Harmonization with the United Nations Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Secretariat)
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/HAR/2021/2	Inclusion of modifications for UN 1012 Butylene – Update to ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2021/14 (Spain)
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/HAR/2021/3	Development of the requirements on fibre-reinforced plastics (FRP) tanks (France)
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/HAR/2021/4	Harmonization with the United Nations Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods – Recycled plastics material (Spain and Sweden)
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2020/65	Report of the informal working group on "Provisions on equipment for tanks and pressure receptacles" (EIGA)
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2020/66	Exemptions for lithium batteries of UN 3536 (Switzerland)
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2021/5	Development of Chapter 6.9 on fibre-reinforced plastics portable tanks (France)
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2021/14	Name and description for UN numbers in the Model Regulations and RID/ADR: UN 1012 Butylene (Spain)

4. The background documents were the report of the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and annexes thereto, circulated by the secretariat as documents ST/SG/AC.10/48 and Add.1-3.

5. The Ad Hoc Working Group adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the secretariats.

II. Harmonization of RID/ADR/ADN with the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations

6. The Ad Hoc Working Group (hereafter referred to as the "Working Group") examined the draft amendments in document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/HAR/2021/1. The amendments proposed by the Working Group are reproduced in the addendum to this report (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2021/24/Add.1). Some texts were placed between square brackets pending a decision by the Joint Meeting or feedback from other intergovernmental bodies.

7. The Working Group agreed that the comments below, providing the rationale behind some of the recommendations made by the working group, should be brought to the attention of the Joint Meeting, the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, the ADN Safety Committee or the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Sub-Committee), as appropriate (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2021/24/Add.1, ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2021/29¹).

¹ Available at: <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/ST-SG-AC.10-C.3-2021-29e.pdf>

A. Amendments to the definitions in Chapter 1.2

1. Definition of “closed cryogenic receptacle”:

8. The Working Group agreed to replace the definition for "cryogenic receptacle" with the definition of "closed cryogenic receptacle" of the Model Regulations. It was also agreed to review the definition of “receptacle”.

2. Definition of “tank”

9. The Working Group agreed to delete the note (reference to 6.7.4.1) in the current definition of “tank” in line with the Model Regulations.

3. Definition of “working pressure”

10. In the definition of “working pressure” for UN 1001 acetylene, dissolved, in subparagraph (b), it was noted that “content” was translated once as “volume” and once as “quantité” in the French text.¹

4. Definition of “pressure receptacle shell”

11. The representative of Switzerland was of the opinion that the new definition of “pressure receptacle shell” was misleading and should be clarified. The Working Group agreed to consider this issue together with document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2020/65 tabled by EIGA (see paragraph 31 below).

5. Abbreviation of “FRP” for fibre-reinforced plastics

12. The Working Group decided to insert the abbreviation of “FRP” into the new 1.2.3. As the wording “fibre-reinforced plastics” is now used in different chapters of RID/ADR/ADN it was also decided to transfer the new definition of “fibre-reinforced plastics” from Chapter 6.9 to 1.2.1.

6. Recycled plastics material

13. The Working Group discussed how to harmonise RID/ADR/ADN with the Model Regulations as regards the permitted use of recycled plastics material. It was decided to align the definition of recycled plastics material in RID/ADR/ADN with that in the Model Regulations and to transfer the provision in 6.1.4.8.8 to the definition in 1.2.1.

14. A revised proposal ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/HAR/2021/4 was considered during the session and adopted with modifications. The Working Group acknowledged that the Note in the definition refers to "large packagings made of recycled plastics material" whereas no provisions were included in Chapter 6.6 for the use of recycled plastics.

B. Chapter 1.6

15. The Working Group agreed to amend the proposed transitional measures together with some editorial amendments.

C. Chapter 1.8

16. Following the insertion of a new 6.2.2.11 and subsequent renumbering of the current paragraph, the Working Group agreed on the need to insert consequential amendments to Chapter 1.8.

D. Chapter 3.2, table A

1. UN 2849

17. The Working Group noted that the amendments to UN 2849 proposed in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/HAR/2021/1 resulted from an editorial error in the Model Regulations and was not relevant for RID/ADR/ADN. The secretariats were requested to verify the use of the word "propene" and "propanol" in the different language versions of RID/ADR/ADN.

2. New entry UN 3550

18. The amendments in column (12) and (13) were placed between square brackets, subject to further consideration by the Informal Working Group on Tanks at its next meeting. It was noted that special packing provision B1 of packing instruction IBC07 did not appear in RID/ADR and was replaced by W/V special provisions concerning carriage in packages in 7.2.4. As currently no W/V requirement for carriage in closed wagons/vehicles and containers existed it was proposed to add a new W/V. It was agreed to put both B1 and the new W/V requirement in square brackets and to resume discussion at the forthcoming session of the Joint Meeting in September 2021.

E. Chapter 3.3

Special provision 396

19. On SP 396 (f), the Working Group noted that the word "are" before "marked in accordance" could be removed.¹

F. Chapter 4.1

1. 4.1.3.3, additional last sentence on packagings

20. The Working Group agreed on the new additional sentence to 4.1.3.3 but recommended to read "packagings" instead of "packages". This amendment should be brought to the attention of the TDG Sub-Committee.¹

2. 4.1.4.1, P137, special packing provision PP70

21. The Working Group also recommended to correct in the English version of ADR 2021 the numbering of the figures in 5.2.1.10.1 and invited the secretariat to prepare a corrigendum (see also report of the 109th session of WP.15 (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/253, annex II)).

3. 4.1.4.1, P144, new note under special packing provision PP77

22. The Working Group felt that the new note to special packing provision PP77 of packing instruction P144 was misleading as it could also refer to the first sentence of the special packing provision and recommended the wording be improved.¹

4. 4.1.4.1, P200 (5)

23. The Working Group noted that the use in the Model Regulations of the pressure unit "bar (abs.)" should be reviewed. Therefore, it should be brought to the attention of the TDG Sub-Committee including the possible harmonization in line with the SI unit "Pa" or "MPa".

G. Chapter 4.1

1. 4.1.4.2, IBC520

24. The Working Group noted a preference to amend "not listed in 2.2.41.4 and 2.2.52.4" to read "not listed in 2.2.41.4 nor in 2.2.52.4" and recommended the wording in the Model

Regulations be aligned by the TDG Sub-Committee for the reference to 2.4.2.3.2.3 and 2.5.3.2.4". The same comment applies to 4.2.5.2.6, T23.

2. 4.1.6.15

25. It was noted that no amendment was necessary for 4.1.6.15 as the amendments to 4.1.6.1.6 of the Model Regulations have already been taken into account by the Informal Working Group on Standards of the Joint Meeting.

H. Chapter 6.2

26. The Working Group decided to replace in 6.2.1.5.4 the word "weight " by "mass". This correction should be brought to the attention of the TDG Sub-Committee.¹

I. Chapter 6.5

27. The Working Group agreed to add at the end of 6.5.1.1.2 after "equivalent" the text "and are recognized by the competent authority" as is already the case for packagings in 6.1.1.2 and 6.3.2.1 and for large packagings in 6.6.1.3.

J. Chapter 6.9 on fibre-reinforced plastics (FRP) portable tanks

28. The Working Group wondered if the reference to "Class 3" in 6.9.2.2.3.14.1 was appropriate as the provision should also apply to substances of other classes with a subsidiary flammability hazard and decided to keep it in square brackets pending confirmation by TDG Sub-Committee.¹

29. The Working Group discussed document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2021/5 on possible options to include the new provisions for FRP portable tanks and welcomed the proposal to transfer current Chapter 6.9 for RID/ADR tanks into a new Chapter 6.13 improved on the basis of the new provisions for FRP portable tanks as presented in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/HAR/2021/3.

30. It was recommended to set up an informal correspondence group (ICG) on FRP tanks to consider the best way forward for the development of the requirements on FRP tanks into RID/ADR, taking into account consequential amendments and avoiding duplication of text. The ICG will discuss the issue on the basis of ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/HAR/2021/3 as revised by the representative of France with a view to present a proposal for review by the Tank Working Group at the autumn session of the Joint Meeting.

K. Equipment for tanks and pressure receptacles

31. The Working Group adopted the amendments in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2020/65. It was noted that "cylinder shell" would be translated as "enveloppe de bouteille" in the French version. It was also noted that the term "enveloppe" was already used in the translation of "over-moulded protective case" for overmoulded cylinders. The Working Group agreed to replace the term used by "coque surmoulée".

L. Exemptions for lithium batteries of UN 3536

32. The Working Group adopted the amendment to special provision 389 proposed in option 1 of document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2020/66.

M. UN 1012 Butylene

33. Following the discussion of the Joint Meeting at its spring session on ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2021/14 and informal document INF.38 the Working Group adopted the amendments proposed in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/HAR/2021/2 as amended.

III. Other business

34. As no document had been submitted, no discussion took place under this agenda item.

IV. Adoption of the report

35. The Working Group adopted the report on its session by correspondence, based on a draft prepared by the secretariats, including the draft amendments to RID/ADR/ADN as listed in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2021/24/Add.1.
