



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
19 August 2022

Original: English

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

### Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

#### 112th session

Geneva, 8-11 November 2022

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

#### Interpretation of ADR

## Calculation of the net explosive mass

### Note by the secretariat\*

#### Introduction

1. In 1.2.1 of ADR, “Net explosive mass” refers to the total mass of explosive substance. Explosive substance and pyrotechnic substance are defined separately in 2.2.1.1.1.
2. At its last session, the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods discussed whether the quantities of pyrotechnic substances should be considered in the calculation of the net explosive mass. In ADR, the net explosive mass is used to determine the maximum permissible net mass of Class 1 goods allowed per transport unit, to define the restrictions for tunnels and for applying certain exemptions. Some delegations confirmed that the quantities of pyrotechnic substances should be considered in the calculation of the net explosive mass in these cases.
3. The Working Party agreed that it could be useful to clarify the definition of net explosive mass in ADR. It was recalled that the definition was taken from the Model Regulations and acknowledged that it should be discussed in the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

#### Outcome of the discussion in the Sub-Committee

4. This subject was discussed in the Explosives Working Group which met during the sixtieth session of the Sub-Committee (Geneva, from 27 June to 6 July 2022). The report of the Explosives Working Group was circulated as informal document INF.44 of that session and is available on the ECE website at <https://unece.org/info/Transport/Dangerous-Goods/events/362955>.
5. The Explosives Working Group agreed that quantities of pyrotechnic substances should be considered in the calculation of the net explosive mass. The Explosives Working Group also endorsed a proposal from Sweden to modify the definition of “pyrotechnic substance” in 2.1.1.3 of the Model Regulations (2.2.1.1.1 in RID/ADR/ADN) to indicate that

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\* A/76/6 (Sect.20), para 20.76.

pyrotechnic substances are explosive substances (see informal document INF.44, annex II). However, noting that the corresponding text also appeared in Chapter 2.1 of the GHS, the Sub-Committee invited the expert from Sweden to submit the proposal (including consequential amendments to the GHS, if applicable) for consideration by the TDG and GHS sub-committees at their next sessions.

## **Conclusion**

6. Considering the above and pending the adoption of further amendments to the Model Regulations and their transposition in RID/ADR/ADN, the Working Party may wish to confirm that the quantities of pyrotechnic substances should be considered in the calculation of the net explosive mass used to determine the maximum permissible net mass of Class 1 goods allowed per transport unit, to define the restrictions for tunnels and for applying certain exemptions in ADR.

7. This interpretation could be published on the dedicated webpage on the ECE website until the modification of the definition of “pyrotechnic substance” is implemented in RID/ADR/ADN.

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