



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**

Berne, 20-24 March 2023

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Proposals for amendments to ADR:
new proposals****Harmonising the definitions of “closed wagon”, “closed
vehicle” and “closed container”****Submitted by the International Association of Dangerous Goods Safety
Advisers (IASA)*, *****Summary*

Executive summary: RID/ADR 1.2.1 includes definitions of “closed wagon”, “closed vehicle” and “closed container”. They are radically different. The definition of a “closed vehicle” does not explain the essence of the problem.

Action to be taken: Amend the definition of “closed wagon” and “closed vehicle” in such a way as to harmonise them with the definition of “closed container”.

Introduction

1. RID/ADR 1.2.1 contains the following definitions:
 - “**Closed wagon**” means a wagon with fixed or movable walls and roofs.
 - “**Closed vehicle**” means a vehicle having a body capable of being closed.
 - “**Closed container**” means a totally enclosed container having a rigid roof, rigid side walls, rigid end walls and a floor. The term includes containers with an opening roof where the roof can be closed during transport.

* A/77/6 (Sect.20), para. 20.76

** Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2023/7

2. The definition of a closed vehicle de facto defines nothing. What does the phrase “capable of being closed” mean? The customs seal used on sheeted vehicles is also an example of a closure.
3. When specifying the type of transport compartment, RID/ADR frequently mention both “closed wagon/vehicle” and “closed container”, for example:
- **PP7** For UN No. 2000, celluloid may also be transported unpacked on pallets, wrapped in plastic film and secured by appropriate means, such as steel bands as a full load in **closed wagons/vehicles** or **containers** (...)
 - **PP12** For UN Nos. 1361, 2213 and UN No. 3077, 5H1, 5L1 and 5M1 bags are allowed when carried in **closed wagons/vehicles** or **containers**
 - **PP37** For UN Nos. 2590 and 2212, 5M1 bags are permitted. All bags of any type shall be carried in **closed wagons/vehicles** or **containers** or be placed in closed rigid overpacks.
 - **PP38** For UN No. 1309, packing group II, bags are permitted only in **closed wagons/vehicles/** or **containers**
 - **P801 (2)(g)(ii)** carried in **closed wagons** or wagons with covers/**closed** or sheeted **vehicles/or containers**
 - **7.1.7.4.8** If substances are contained in protective packagings filled with a coolant, they shall be loaded in **closed** or sheeted **vehicles** or **closed** or sheeted **containers**. If the vehicles or containers used are closed they shall be adequately ventilated (...)
 - **7.2.4, W1/V1:** Packages shall be loaded on to **closed** or sheeted **wagons/vehicles** or into **closed** or sheeted **containers**
 - **7.3.3.2.3 AP4 Closed vehicles** and **closed containers** shall be equipped with hermetically closed openings used for filling and discharging to prevent the exit of gas and exclude the ingress of moisture
4. Such a combination of the terms “closed wagons”, “closed vehicle” and “closed container” suggests that the structure of the load compartment of the wagon/vehicle and container is the same.
5. It is advisable to amend the definitions of “closed wagon” and “closed vehicle” to bring them into line with the definition of “closed container”.

Proposal

6. Replace the definitions of “closed wagon” and “closed vehicle” in 1.2.1 to read as follows:

“**Closed wagon** means a fully enclosed load compartment, having a rigid roof, rigid side walls, rigid end walls and a floor. The term includes wagons with an opening roof where the roof can be closed during transport.

“**Closed vehicle** means a fully enclosed load compartment, having a rigid roof, rigid side walls, rigid end walls and a floor. The term includes vehicles with an opening roof where the roof can be closed during transport.”

Justification

7. The proposed amendment will consolidate understanding of the term “closed” in relation to wagons, vehicles and containers.

The new definition indicates the design of the load compartment.
