



Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Sixty-fourth session

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Item 6 (d) of the provisional agenda

Miscellaneous proposals for amendments to the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods:

Other miscellaneous proposals

Amendment of term ‘tons’ to ‘tonnes’ in the English text of 1.2.2.1

Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom*

I. Introduction

1. At the sixtieth session of the RID Committee of Experts’ standing working group (London, 20-23 November 2023) one of the documents considered was document OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2023/10 containing draft amendments to *RID* for entry into force on 1 January 2025.
2. One aspect of that paper dealt with the adoption of code, “AP12”, setting additional provisions for carriage in bulk. Specifically, in relation to the last sentence of the penultimate sub-paragraph of “AP12”, the United Kingdom remarked that the reference to “tons” should be to “tonnes” so as to align with the French text.
3. This amendment was adopted and as it affects the equivalent *ADR* text, was conveyed to, and accepted by the United Nations secretariat. Within the *Model Regulations*, such additional provisions related to carriage in bulk do not feature as these are linked to an alternative system used in *RID/ADR* identified by the “VC” code, rather than the other one based on bulk containers (BK code) from the *Model Regulations*. However, within the English version, the table at 1.2.2.1, for the measurement of mass, gives the acceptable alternative unit as “t (ton)” rather than “t (tonne)” as in the French version. This is considered incorrect.

II. Proposal

4. In the third column (Acceptable alternative unit) of 1.2.2.1 of the *Model Regulations* for mass, amend “t (ton)” to read “t (tonne)” in the English text. At the time of writing this

* A/78/6 (Sect. 20), table 20.5.

document, a similar proposal has been made to amend *RID/ADR*, but as the units of measurements within those texts are based on the *Model Regulations*, we ask the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to consider and accept our proposal.

III. Justification

5. “Ton” is an imperial unit which has been used in the United Kingdom (also known as the “long ton”) or a unit used in the United States of America (also known as the “short ton”) where the masses are different from each other and from the metric tonne. The intention is to refer to “tonne” which is the metric unit. The intention to refer to the metric unit rather than the imperial unit can be seen in the fourth column of the table at 1.2.2.1 where the text reads “1 t = 10³ kg”. 1 “tonne” is equivalent to 1000 kg, whereas 1 “ton” is 1016 kg.
