

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
28 June 2024

Original: English

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**

Geneva, 9-13 September 2024

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN:**New proposals****Proposed amendments to RID/ADR 5.4.1.1.3.2 regarding
information on the quantity transported in the transport
document****Transmitted by the Government of Ireland and the European
Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services
(FEAD)*, *****Summary*

Executive summary: Proposed amendment of 5.4.1.1.3.2 to provide for the estimation of the quantity of waste in tanks, other than vacuum operated waste tanks.

Decision to be taken: Amendment of 5.4.1.1.3.2.

Related documents: Document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2023/48 from the Government of Ireland and informal document INF.35 from FEAD, both transmitted to the Joint Meeting session held on 19-29 September 2023. In addition, informal document INF.27 transmitted by FEAD to the Joint Meeting session held on 25-28 March 2024.

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

** Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2024/42.



Background

1. Ireland and FEAD welcomed the introduction of new provision 5.4.1.1.3.2 when it was included in the 2023 edition of the RID/ADR/ADN.
2. At the September 2023 session of the Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Ireland submitted working document [ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2023/48](#), to propose an amendment to 5.4.1.1.3.2 to permit in addition, the estimation of medical or clinical waste (UN No. 3291) already packaged in accordance with RID/ADR 4.1.4.1, packing instruction P621. The Joint Meeting adopted the proposed amendments to 5.4.1.1.3.2 of RID/ADR/ADN. In addition, some delegations stated that other substances excluded on account of being mentioned in 2.1.3.5.3 could also be considered, such as aerosols, and other clinical and medical waste not packaged according to packing instruction P621.
3. At the same session of the Joint Meeting, in September 2023, FEAD submitted informal document [INF.35](#) to provide further information on the estimation of quantities for waste in accordance with 5.4.1.1.3.2. FEAD requested the Joint Meeting to consider allowing an estimation of waste in tanks, other than vacuum operated waste tanks. The justification provided was that in some cases, only an estimated quantity is available also for transport in tanks other than vacuum operated tanks. This is the case, for example, when waste oils are collected in garages. In such cases, estimation can be easily made with the availability of the degree of filling. Most delegates who took the floor agreed on the need to review the provisions in 5.4.1.1.3.2 to allow an indication of estimated quantities in the transport document also in the case of carriage of waste in tanks.
4. The Informal Working Group meeting on the Transport of Hazardous Waste (IWG) hold a meeting on 8 February 2024 in which the possible further revision of provision 5.4.1.1.3.2 was discussed. The IWG discussed the extension of the scope of 5.4.1.1.3.2, based on a proposal which changes the approach of the current rule for estimated quantities. Rather than excluding all waste containing substances mentioned in 2.1.3.5.3, the provision could list the individual types of substances for exclusion, such as waste containing substances of Class 1 or Class 7. Some delegates present at the IWG recommended extending the exclusion to high consequence dangerous goods as defined in Chapter 1.10.
5. Tanks, other than vacuum operated tanks, were initially not excluded from the scope of 5.4.1.1.3.2 in the documents discussed during the spring session of the Joint Meeting in Bern in March 2021 (see document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2021/18 and informal documents INF.26 from Spain and INF.27 from FEAD). It was discussed that for tanks, other than vacuum-tanks, enough information on the degree of filling must be available to allow the estimation, while for vacuum-operated tanks, the estimation shall be justified. It was unclear to the IWG meeting of February 2024, why tanks, other than vacuum operated tanks, had been finally excluded from the scope of 5.4.1.1.3.2.

I. Proposal

6. Following the discussions held during the IWG meeting on 8 February 2024, Ireland and FEAD worked on an updated proposal to be submitted for the consideration of the Joint Meeting through this document. It is herewith clarified that maximum weight limitations shall not be exceeded on the basis of the proposed amendments, and that any change shall only affect RID/ADR/ADN. Proposed amendments to 5.4.1.1.3.2 are in bold and underlined or stricken-through, considering the text of RID/ADR/ADN 2025, as follows:

5.4.1.1.3.2 If it is not possible to measure the exact quantity of the waste at the place of loading, the quantity according to 5.4.1.1.1 (f) may be estimated for the following cases under the following conditions:

- (a) For packagings, a list of packagings including the type and the nominal volume is added to the transport document;
- (b) For containers, the estimation will be based on their nominal volume and other available information (e.g. type of waste, average density, degree of filling);

(c) For **tanks, including** vacuum operated waste tanks, the estimation is **justified based on the availability of sufficient information on the degree of filling** (e.g. by means of ~~an estimation~~ **information** provided by the consigner or by wagon/vehicle equipment).

Such estimation of the quantity is not allowed for:

- (a) Exemptions for which the exact quantity is essential (e.g. 1.1.3.6);
- (b) **Packaged waste of the following classes, which contain high consequence substances carried in quantities greater than those listed in 1.10.3.1.2:**
 - **Toxic gases of Class 2, except for aerosols,**
 - **Desensitized explosives of Class 3,**
 - **Desensitized explosives of Class 4.1,**
 - **Infectious substances of Category A and medical waste of Category A of Class 6.2.**
- (c) **Waste containing substances of Classes 1 or 7.**

~~Waste containing substances mentioned in 2.1.3.5.3 (with the exception of UN No. 3291, medical or clinical waste, in packaging conforming to P621) or substances of Class 4.3;~~

~~— Tanks other than vacuum operated waste tanks.~~

A statement shall be included in the transport document, as follows:

“QUANTITY ESTIMATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 5.4.1.1.3.2”.

II. Justification

7. Since the introduction of provision 5.4.1.1.3.2 in RID/ADR/ADN 2023, the experience from the industry in different countries has evidenced its practical limitations due to the strict scope restrictions as there are more situation in which the quantity of transported waste can only be estimated.

8. The example of waste oils collected in garages has already been mentioned in the background information. In addition, Ireland consulted with stakeholders in the waste industry, to request if there are substances, currently excluded from estimation under the current provisions of 5.4.1.1.3.2 that could potentially be estimated without impacting safety during carriage. From this consultation it resulted that, in practice, such estimation of quantities is already happening as most sites do not have the capabilities for weighing waste, and the quantities in the transport document are best estimates from the information provided by the packers and consignors. The number and size of packages are always recorded in the transport document and the estimated total quantity per UN number is recorded.

9. In relation to class 6.2 waste, medical and clinical waste (UN 3291) is carried in wheelie bins (for example with a capacity of 770 l). Such wheelie bins are often only approved for solids and the waste is treated as a “solid” waste. The solid waste placed into the wheelie bins may be in clinical waste bags. The estimation clause in 5.4.1.1.3.2 is also applied where the quantity of waste is estimated in kilogrammes in packaging such as wheelie bins which have a nominal capacity in litres.

10. In relation to tanks, many pharmaceutical, medical devices and other sites do not have weighbridges for their wastes leaving site in tanks as well as vacuum operated waste tanks. The quantity of waste in tanks is currently estimated.

11. For packed waste, the number and type of packagings are provided in the transport document including the nominal volume for packagings and then an estimation of the gross mass from the consignor or packer. Most packed waste loads being transported are a mixture of classes of waste and so some are permitted to be estimated under the current provisions of 5.4.1.1.3.2, and some are not. This makes it difficult to manage from a systems and documentation perspective.

12. The proposal reflects current practice and thus, it is not considered that the proposal increase the risk level associated with the use estimated quantities. Waste is highly controlled, and all other RID/ADR/ADN provisions apply and are complied with.
