



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2003/73  
29 July 2003

Original: ENGLISH

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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the  
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**  
(Geneva, 13-17 October 2003)

**PROPOSALS OF AMENDMENT TO RID/ADR/ADN**

**New proposals**

**Packing Instruction P800**

**Submitted by the Government of Spain \*/**

**SCOPE**

For centuries, UN 2809 (Mercury) has been transported in steel flasks or bottles with threaded closures with a maximum capacity of 3 l. RID/ADR 2001 introduced paragraph (2) in Packing Instruction P800, which limits the capacity of these flasks to 2.5 l. This document proposes to increase this maximum capacity to 3 l.

**DOCUMENTS RELATED**

ST/SG/AC.10/1998/16 (Germany and United Kingdom) Report of the informal Working Group on Packing Instructions (Frankfurt, 7-11 September 1998).

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\*/ Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT-III/2003/73.

## BACKGROUND

1. The capacity for steel flasks for UN 2809 (Mercury) manufactured in Spain is based on one of the historical weight units: *the Arroba Castellana*, equivalent to a weight of 11.5 kg. Three Arrobas Castellanas (i.e: 34.5 kg) made the flask of mercury metal that was defined and used since the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
2. The international prices quotation that is used on the international trade of this metal is defined as USD/flask “in warehouse Rotterdam bases” (being the flask 34.5 kg net). This is used as “commodity” and price is issued by the London Metal Bulletin twice a week.
3. Those 34.5 kg of mercury with a specific density of 13.6 g/ml make a volume of 2.5367 l. The filling ratio permitted is 85%. Therefore, the minimum capacity needed to carry 34,5 kg is 3 l.
4. Packing Instruction P800 allows the use of “steel flasks or bottles with threaded closures with a capacity not exceeding 2,5 l”. This limitation to the maximum capacity was introduced in RID/ADR 2001, as a proposal to have a limit to the contents, but not with a justified reason of why precisely 2,5 l.
5. On the other hand, according to paragraph 3.4.6 of RID/ADR, LQ19 allows an inner packing with a maximum capacity of 3 liters, that seems to be in contradiction with the 2.5 l required in Packing Instruction P800.

## PROPOSAL

6. It is proposed to increase the allowed capacity for steel flasks (par.(2) of P800) to 3 l, by deleting “2.5 l” from paragraph (2) of Packing Instruction P800 and writing instead “3 l”.

## JUSTIFICATION

6. According to our use and experience we do not find any reason that justify the reduction of maximum capacity from 3 *liter* flasks that have been used up to this year.
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