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Working Party on Rail Transport

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OTIF
Intergovernmental Organisation
for International Carriage by Rail



OSJD
Organisation for Railways
Cooperation

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Harmonisation of the different rail transport systems

Joint report on the co-operation of OTIF and OSJD to the UN/ECE Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2)

Cooperation between OTIF and OSJD is based on a plan agreed each year between the two organisations. As before, the focus of the cooperation is the CIT¹-OSJD project on the interoperability of transport law – CIM/SMGS consignment note (see OTIF-OSJD report for 2006).

The CIM/SMGS consignment note has been available since 1 September 2006. The lines on which it can be used are set out in Annex 1 to the “CIM/SMGS consignment note” manual² and in Annex 22 to SMGS. OSJD and CIT are making efforts to extend the area in which the CIM/SMGS consignment note is used: seminars are held and trial transport operations are organised. There are already regular regular container transport operations between Mainz (Germany) and Zaporozje (Ukraine).

¹ International Rail Transport Committee

² Available in German and Russian under:

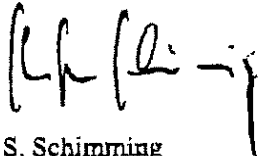
http://www.cit-rail.org/html/d/produkte_01_d.php?we_lv_start_p80=10

The updated rules concerning the transport of dangerous goods (Annex 2 to SMGS), which were developed on the basis of the UN Recommendations, the 14th edition of the UN Model Regulations, RID 2007 and ADR 2007, entered into force on 1 July 2007. At the present stage, there are only minor technical differences.

In accordance with the plan of joint OSJD-OTIF activities, delegations from OSJD Member States and a representative of the OSJD Committee take part in the RID/ADR/ADN - OTIF/UNECE Joint Meetings and the meetings of the RID Committee of Experts.

With regard to cooperation in the technical area, OTIF participates in the work of the OSJD Commission's expert working group on infrastructure and rolling stock to draft a joint UIC-OSJD leaflet for the carriage of exceptional consignments on 1520 mm and 1453 mm gauge networks. OTIF also takes part in the annual meetings of this Commission, and informs participants of the progress of the work being carried out by OTIF's Committee of Technical Experts.

With regard to the facilitation of border crossing, cooperation between the two organisations is concentrated on work to prepare amendments to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, specifically to add a new Annex 9 to this Convention to deal with border crossing in rail freight transport. Both organisations agree that formal steps to take a decision should now be initiated by the UN/ECE (as required by Article 22 of the Convention and its Annex 7). Parallel to this, work on preparing a new Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers in the international Carriage of Passengers by Rail has been undertaken, together with OTIF, on the basis of the 1952 International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage carried by Rail.



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Chairman of the OSJD Committee