

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

INTERPRETATION OF ADR

Instructions in writing

Transmitted by the Government of Sweden

The requirement in sub-section 5.4.3.4 states that the instructions in writing shall correspond to the four page model as regards its form and contents. The Swedish view concerning this model has, so far, been quite stringent. The reason for this is partly because it is not very practical for the enforcement body having to decide upon these issues in each single situation, and partly because Sweden raised a question related to this matter at a previous WP.15 meeting (May 2008).

At that meeting, the question was raised whether it is possible to add information on the first page, e.g. telephone numbers to the appropriate emergency services. Most delegations confirmed that it might be necessary in some cases to transmit additional information to drivers, but that such information should not compromise the integrity of the model instructions in writing prescribed in 5.4.3.4 and should therefore appear in a separate document (paragraph 14 in ECE/TRANS/WP.15/197, the Report of the 84th session of the WP.15 meeting).

At the latest meeting with the International Working Group on Roadside Checks in the field of the transport of dangerous goods in the European Union (28-29 April 2009, Madrid), Sweden raised this issue again, and presented more specified questions related to the interpretation of the instructions in writing.

As far as we are informed, the opinion at the Meeting on Roadside Checks seemed to diverge from the opinion of the WP.15 in May last year. Since we believe it is of importance that all Contracting Parties to ADR have a uniform view concerning this matter we would, again, like to raise this question.

Main issues:

- Are different formats of the instructions, such as e.g. folded pamphlets allowed?
- Must the instructions in writing be printed in colour or is it allowed to bring a black and white copy?
- Is it allowed to add information on the instructions in writing, such as emergency numbers, logotypes, contact details etc?

The Government of Sweden would like to hear the other countries' opinions on this matter.
