

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

Bern, 20-24 March 2023

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN:

new proposals

13 March 2023

Comments on document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2023/20 (European Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services, FEAD) on the transport of packaged waste in combined packaging

Transmitted by the Government of Ireland

Introduction

1. Ireland supports this proposal from the European Federation of Waste Management and Environmental Services (FEAD) in principal, as it serves to provide progress in finding a solution for the carriage of waste in combination packaging. We agree that the existing provisions in RID/ADR do not cover all possible variations encountered in the carriage of packaged waste in combination packaging. However, Ireland is of the opinion that the proposal may need some further development in order to solve this ongoing issue.
2. In Ireland, we have had national competent authority exemptions in place for 'laboratory smalls' since 2011. The original exemption was granted in response to practical difficulties experienced by the waste industry in Ireland in achieving compliance with some of the provisions of the ADR.
3. During 2015, our stakeholders sourced suitable "V" marked packaging that meets the requirements of ADR 6.1.5.1.7 which allows articles or inner packagings of any type for solids or liquids (for example "laboratory smalls") to be assembled in outer packaging without testing in combination.
4. Ireland's current 'laboratory smalls' exemption permits substances or articles with different UN numbers, where several are packaged together in a single package, to be classified under one or more suitable UN number(s) according to collective entries as defined in ADR 2.1.1.2. This collective entry is marked on the outer package, which is tested, approved and marked in accordance with ADR 6.1.5.1.7. Except where provided otherwise in ADR 4.1.10, the exemption allows "laboratory smalls" to be packed together up to a maximum of 5 kg or 5 L per individual inner package under the provisions of the exemption.
5. The Irish competent authority consulted with stakeholders in relation to the proposal in document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2023/20, and includes feedback from stakeholders in the comments below.

Comments

6. If the intention of the proposal is to provide for waste collected in a variety of scenarios including municipal waste facilities (as illustrated in Figure 1 of document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2023/20) and waste from university and industrial laboratories (as illustrated in Figure 2), then it will not be sufficient to limit the provisions to waste

classified under 2.1.3.5.5, which is based on the scenario where the composition of the waste is not precisely known. For waste laboratory chemicals, the composition often is precisely known, for example, when the waste chemicals/reagents are unused, and there are also situations when the composition is not precisely known, for example when the packaging is open for some time and some degradation has occurred or the substance has been contaminated. To address this scenario, a suggested amendment to the first paragraph of the proposal is provided in paragraph 11 below.

7. To ensure that liquids in the inner packaging are contained within the outer packaging in the event of an incident, paragraph 11 suggests an amendment as provided below as 4.1.1.5.3 (bb).

8. If the outer packaging is intended to contain inner packagings for liquids that have not been marked with the hydraulic test pressure prescribed in 6.1.3.1(d) or that no longer retain UN certification, depending on the substances in the inner packaging there may be a possibility of a build up of pressure in the outer packaging. It is suggested in such instances to provide that the outer packing is tested for solids and liquids (dual certification). It is suggested that in this instance, to ensure availability of packaging, the outer packaging is tested and certified to packing group II. In order to provide for this, paragraph 11 suggests an amendment provided as 4.1.1.5.3 (bbb).

9. Ireland considers that 4.1.1.5.3 (f) requires further discussion. The waste industry will not always have the test reports for packaging that it does not use. Users of packaging with codes 1H2, 3H2 or 4H2 are highly unlikely to have access to the design test reports and packaging approval for packagings with codes 1H1 or 3H1 that may be made by a different manufacturer and to a different specification.

10. It is suggested to provide a new 4.1.1.5.3 (hh) to provide for the packaging of laboratory waste under this provision, where the composition of the waste is generally known. This method has been used in Ireland since 2015 under the provisions of our national exemption.

11. Proposed amendments to FEAD document are marked in bold and underlined:

“4.1.1.5.3 In the case of carriage of waste **substances in packages where the composition is precisely known and other packaged waste which may be classified under 2.1.3.5.5, different inner packagings can be used together with one outer packaging, if the outer packaging used complies with the following provisions:**

- (a) The outer packaging shall be tested for packaging group I;
- (b) An outer packaging tested for solids may be used for ~~combined~~ **combination** packaging, without specifically testing it for the inner packagings.

(bb) If the outer packaging is intended to contain inner packagings for liquids and is not leakproof, a means of containing any liquid contents in the event of leakage shall be provided in the form of a liner or other equally efficient means of containment;

(bbb) If the outer packaging is intended to contain inner packagings for liquids that have not been marked with the hydraulic test pressure prescribed in 6.1.3.1(d) or no longer retain UN certification, and where pressure may develop under normal conditions of carriage, the outer packaging shall be tested for solids and for liquids for packing group II;

- (c) Inner packagings of different sizes and shapes and materials may be used, provided that the outer packaging can be closed;
- (d) Sufficient cushioning material is used to prevent significant movement of the inner packagings under normal transport conditions;
- (e) Sufficient absorbent material is used so that any leakage of the contents of the inner packagings does not compromise the integrity of the cushioning material or of the outer packaging;

- (f) For packaging with codes 1H2, 3H2 and 4H2, proof of sufficient chemical compatibility is deemed to have been provided if the compatibility of the material with the respective standard liquids has been verified as part of a design test and approval for packaging with code 1H1 or 3H1;
- (g) Waste presenting a risk, or a subsidiary risk, of Class 5.1 shall not be packed together with waste classified under another class in the same outer packaging.
- (h) On the basis of the knowledge of the composition of the waste and the physical and chemical properties of the identified components, the waste contained in ~~one~~ **the** outer packaging is assigned to the most stringent collective entry describing those properties according to the table of precedence of hazards of 2.1.3.10.

(hh) Where the composition of the inner packagings is known, the different components of the inner packaging shall be packed together in accordance with 4.1.1.6 and 4.1.10 by trained and competent personnel and with the use of written instructions or procedures. When carrying several articles or substances with different UN numbers in a single package, the outer package may be marked with one or more suitable UN number(s) (collective entries as defined in ADR 2.1.1.2). The appropriate collective entry hazard labels shall be placed on the package. A list of the contents of each package, detailing the UN number, proper shipping name, packing group, inner package size(s) and total quantity for each article or substance, shall be attached to the transport document.
