

## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

22 September 2023

Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the  
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Geneva, 19–27 September 2023

Item 7 of the provisional agenda:

Reports of informal working groups

## Report of the Informal Working Group on references to the competent authority

Transmitted by the Swiss Government

### Introduction

1. The Informal Working Group held a first virtual meeting on 16th June and a second virtual meeting on 12 September 2023 with Ms. V. Blanchard (Switzerland) as Chair and Mr. D. Pope (United Kingdom) as Vice-Chair.
2. Following countries and organizations were represented: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom, European Union Agency for Railways (ERA), Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), Transport Community, International Union of Wagon Keepers (UIP). The three modes of transport were represented.
3. At the first meeting, the Group agreed on the working arrangements and prioritized the tasks to be carried out. At the second meeting, it reviewed the references to the competent authority in Part 1 of RID/ADR/ADN.

### Working arrangements

4. Based on the terms of reference established by the Joint Meeting in March 2023 (para. 10 in [ECE-TRANS-WP.15-AC.1-2023-17](#)), the Group agreed on following points:
  - The Group will meet virtually 3 to 4 times a year for half a day.
  - The work is based on informal document [INF.3](#) of the March 2023 session. To this end, INF.3 has been amended to include the texts of RID and ADN.
  - The Group will start the work by reviewing all instances where the term "competent authority" appears in parts 1 to 7 of RID/ADR/ADN (table in informal document INF.3). This means it will check – and amend where necessary – the comments and proposals made by the UNECE secretariat in the last column of the table.
  - Based on the results of this initial work, it will review the concepts presented in the first part of informal document INF.3, and in particular the definitions proposed in paragraph 23.
  - The Joint Meeting will be regularly informed on progress and may be asked to validate intermediate results.

## **Review of the references to the competent authority: first results**

5. Based on the review of the references in Part 1 RID/ADR/ADN, it seems more appropriate to amend a reference (i.e. amend RID/ADR/ADN) than to publish an interpretation on the OTIF and UNECE websites. This will ensure a harmonized application of RID/ADR/ADN.

6. The provisions coming from the *"IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material"* should remain unchanged to ensure the harmonisation of RID/ADR/ADN with those Regulations. However, for these provisions, the Group will propose an interpretation. The Group noted that it might need the help of Class 7 experts to do this.

7. The comments and proposals made by the UNECE secretariat in the last column of the table are not always applicable to ADN, as several ADN texts differ considerably from those of RID and ADR. Therefore, the review of ADN texts by the Group should be verified by the ADN Administrative Committee at an early stage. The Group could submit a first document for consideration by the ADN Administrative Committee after its third session in early 2024.

8. The ADN Administrative Committee should also decide how to proceed with the texts in Chapters 8 and 9 of ADN, which are specific to this mode of transport. As a reminder, WP.15 has already reviewed Chapters 8 and 9 of ADR and provided interpretations (see <https://unece.org/transport/dangerous-goods/adr-interpretation-list>).

## **Other issues**

### **Validity of approvals for all three modes of transport**

9. The Group noted that in some countries, a single authority was competent to deliver an approval for a multimodal transport operation, while in other countries, the same transport operation required two (or three) separate approvals. This was the case when the classification and the packing of explosive substances and articles required approval by the competent authority.

10. The Group recognized that a single approval, valid for all modes of transport, could improve the efficiency of multimodal transport operations. However, it did not discuss in detail how it might address this issue, as it was not part of its terms of reference. The Group decided to identify the provisions concerned by such a "multimodal" approval as a first step and to discuss the issue in greater detail at a later stage.

### **Definitions listed in paragraph 23 of informal document INF.3**

11. A delegation proposed introducing the definitions listed in paragraph 23 of informal document INF.3 into RID/ADR/ADN ("Country of origin of the consignment/shipment", "Country of origin of the design", etc...). The Group recognized the added value of these definitions, but has not yet taken a decision on this matter.

## **Next meeting**

12. The third meeting will take place in mid-January 2024 (date to be determined). Delegates wishing to join the group can inform the Chair accordingly ([valerie.blanchard@astra.admin.ch](mailto:valerie.blanchard@astra.admin.ch)).

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