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FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL RAIL TRANSPORT

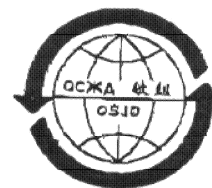
Interoperability and harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems

Transmitted by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF)



OTIF

Intergovernmental Organisation
for International Carriage by Rail



OSJD

Organisation for Railways Cooperation

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Harmonization of the different rail transport systems

Joint report to the UNECE Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) on co-operation between OTIF and OSJD

Cooperation between OTIF and OSJD is based on the document entitled "Common Position", signed in 2002 in order to update the two law systems, increase the volume of traffic, develop the transport corridors, facilitate border crossing procedures and technically equip rolling stock. To this effect OTIF and OSJD annually agree upon joint plans of action.

As before, the focus of cooperation is the CIT-OSJD project on the interoperability of transport law – CIM/SMGS consignment note (see OTIF-OSJD report for 2007, doc. ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2007/10).

The CIM/SMGS consignment note has been available since 1 September 2006. Since that date a number of amendments have been made to the CIM/SMGS consignment note manual, which has made it much easier to use the CIM/SMGS consignment note. In addition, in 2007 the following documents, which entered into force on 1 July 2008, were developed and agreed, , namely:

- CIM/SMGS wagon list (single consignment note for several wagons);
- CIM/SMGS container list (single consignment note for several containers);
- CIM/SMGS report.

All these measures made it easier to use the CIM/SMGS consignment note and made it more attractive to rail transport carriers and customers.

Special interest in freight traffic with the CIM/SMGS consignment note has been shown lately by the car makers (specific information on such services is contained in CIT-INFO 5/2008 and 6/2008).

Since 2006 efforts have been made to develop and introduce electronic or paperless CIM/SMGS consignment notes. The first stage – "Functional and legal specifications of the electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note" – was approved in 2008, except the specifications concerning the data exchange with customs authorities. This work will be continued.

With the support of OTIF, OSJD continues to attach great importance to updating the provisions on the carriage of dangerous goods. In updating these provisions, the amendments that have been incorporated into the relevant national and international regulations and the particular operational features of the railways of the OSJD Member States are being taken into account.

Regulations concerning the carriage of dangerous goods (Annex 2 to the SMGS Agreement), which were updated on the basis of the 15th edition of the UN Recommendations, RID 2009 and ADR 2009, will enter into force on 1 July 2009, after completion of the prescribed OSJD procedures. At present, the provisions only have minor differences.

In accordance with the agreed OSJD-OTIF work plan, delegations of the OSJD Member States and representatives from the OSJD Committee took part in the Joint Meetings of the RID Committee of Experts and the Working Party on the ADR/ADN Agreements.

The XXXV session of the OSJD Conference of Ministers (held on 26-29 June 2007, Warsaw, Poland) approved the basic principles for the revision of the Agreement on International Passenger Transport by Rail (SMPS), which should be developed on the basis of the SMPS agreement currently in force, taking into account the CIV currently in force.

Complying with the decision of the XXXV session of the OSJD Conference of Ministers and in accordance with the joint OTIF/OSJD plan of work, OTIF participates in the work of the OSJD Commission on Transport Law, which deals with issues relating to the revision of the SMPS.

Joint work on this project demonstrated the usefulness of cooperation between these two organizations.

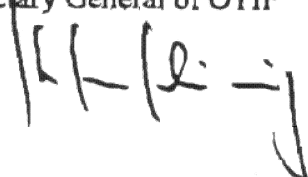
In the technical area, OTIF participates in the work of OSJD Commission V's expert working group on infrastructure and rolling stock, in particular, in drafting a joint UIC - OSJD leaflet for the carriage of exceptional consignments on the 1520 and 1435 mm gauge networks. OTIF participates in the annual meetings of this Commission, at which OTIF provides information on its activities in the technical sector.

OTIF participates in the work of the OSJD Commission on Transport Policy concerning the development of transport corridors and facilitation of border crossing procedures. Cooperation between the two organizations is focused on amending the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, by adding a new Annex 9 to it, which deals with border crossing by rail. In 2007 OTIF and OSJD submitted joint proposals on this issue to the UNECE. In 2008 the two organizations prepared their joint position in relation to the European Commission's commentaries on the draft new Annex 9.

At present, the joint OTIF-OSJD Plan of Work for 2009 is under discussion.

September 2008

S. SCHIMMING
Secretary General of OTIF



T. SZOZDA
Chairman of the OSJD Committee

