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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

Geneva, 15-19 September 2008
Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO RID/ADR/ADN ^{*/ **/}

New proposals

Proposal to remove reference to specific substance types
from the safety adviser examination (sub-section 1.8.3.13)

Transmitted by the Government of the United Kingdom

SUMMARY

Executive summary: The purpose of this proposal is to remove or restrict the option of examining dangerous goods safety advisers (DGSAs) on specific classes or substances. It is the view of the United Kingdom that DGSAs should be able to advise an undertaking on any class of dangerous goods.

^{*/} In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2006-2010 (ECE/TRANS/166/Add.1, programme activity 02.7 (c)).

^{**/} Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2008/17.

Action to be taken:	To eliminate the hydrocarbon option by removing the 5 th indent of sub-section 1.8.3.13. UN numbers. 1202, 1203, 1223, 3475, and or UN1268 or 1863; or to eliminate Class specific examinations for the safety adviser.
Related documents:	INF.6 (Switzerland – WP.15, 84th session) INF.13 (IRU – WP.15, 84th session) ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2008/6 (Switzerland) ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2008/14 (Secretariat) INF 22 (Switzerland – Joint Meeting March 2008)

Background

1. Informal documents INF.6 and INF.13 were presented at the May 2008 session of the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) (see ECE/TRANS/WP.15/197). The proposal to include the new entry UN3475, gasoline and ethanol mixture, to the list of existing UN numbers under the fifth indent of the provisions for safety adviser examinations under sub-section 1.8.3.13 for the 2009 edition of ADR was adopted. INF.13 further proposed the inclusion of aviation fuel, UN numbers 1268 and 1863 to 1.8.3.13.
2. Subsequent to the WP.15 Meeting, working papers reflecting the proposals outlined in INF.6 and 13 were presented to the RID Committee of Experts in May 2008. The changes for the new entry UN3475 and aviation fuel substances to be included to 1.8.3.13, 5th indent were adopted.
3. During the course of the debate in WP.15 the representative of the United Kingdom suggested that it appeared inequitable that some substance specific or class specific qualifications could be offered for one industry sector but not for others.

Analysis

4. The Government of the United Kingdom believes that safety adviser examinations are designed to demonstrate competence in the ability to understand the structure of the regulations in order to be able to identify all pertinent requirements of a transport operation and to advise an undertaking on their application.
5. There is evidence to indicate that examinations taken by safety advisers in all classes far outweigh those for class specific examinations. The United Kingdom currently provides safety adviser examination options in all classes (1 – 9) or class specific for Class 1, Class 2, Class 3 (including hydrocarbons) and Class 7. In the United Kingdom 99% of those taking the safety adviser examinations have taken the ‘all classes’ examination. This is despite the fact that 75% of dangerous goods tank journeys, in the United Kingdom, is the national transport of petroleum products.
6. The United Kingdom believes that since DGSA's may act for a number of undertakings, the nature of whose business may change at intervals, it would be more appropriate for all DGSA's to be qualified in all classes of dangerous goods. The United Kingdom does not believe that it is appropriate to single out specific UN numbers for a restricted qualification. The United

Kingdom proposes therefore a range of options to amend the text of 1.8.3.13 in line with the caveats made at the May 2008 session of WP.15.

Proposal

- Option 1: Delete indent five of 1.8.3.13
 - Option 2: Delete indents two and five of 1.8.3.13
 - Option 3: Delete the whole of 1.8.3.13
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