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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

Geneva, 17-27 September 2013

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Standards

Early use of standards adopted for future reference

Transmitted by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN)^{1, 2}

Summary

Executive summary: This document asks to reconsider a decision taken at the last session or to decide on consequential amendments of two related provisions.

Introduction and background

1. As part of its report to Plenary (informal document INF.44 at the spring 2013 session) the Working Group on Standards suggested adding a paragraph to Section 1.1.5 to read:

A standard which has been adopted for reference in a future edition of the RID/ADR/ADN may also be applied.

2. This recommendation was related to the efforts to update a series of so called general purpose standards, some of them found in Chapter 6.9.

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2010-2014 (ECE/TRANS/208, para.106, ECE/TRANS/2010/8, programme activity 02.7(c)).

² Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2013/51.

It was realized that these outdated standards are no longer available and that the related RID/ADR provisions cannot be followed. The proposed additional paragraph would shorten this time of restricted compliance with RID/ADR by up to two years.

3. After some discussion this proposal was rejected (see para. 29 of the report ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/130). One of the arguments for the rejection was that it was not clear from a legal standpoint when a standard could be considered as being “adopted” for future reference and by which competent body.

Proposal

4. It is again proposed adding a paragraph to Section 1.1.5 to read:

A standard which has been adopted for reference in a future edition of RID/ADR/ADN by the Joint Meeting (WP.15/AC.1) may also be applied.

and to delete Section 6.2.5, 4th paragraph and Subsection 6.8.2.7, 3rd paragraph.

Justification

5. It was agreed that the Working Group on Standards of the Joint Meeting should deal with all references to standards including those relating safety to ADR, RID or ADN (see ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/116, para.3).

6. There are already similar provisions in Section 6.2.5 and Subsection 6.8.2.7 having been used for some years now and without creating obvious problems.

The wording of these paragraphs

A standard which has been adopted for reference in a future edition of the ADR/ ... may be approved by the competent authority for use without notifying the secretariat of UNECE.

is shifting the responsibility to the competent authority. This requires additional efforts from the user and the risk of different reactions in different countries. With the proposed text, the Joint Meeting, supported by the Working Group on Standards will, at any time decide of the future reference to new and amended standards.

7. The placing of the proposed additional paragraph in Section 1.1.5 would be a general solution for all references to standards, wherever they appear in the RID/ADR/ADN.