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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the  
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods  
(Geneva, 1-10 September 2003)

**TRANSPORT OF LITHIUM CELLS AND BATTERIES**

**Transmitted by the Government of Germany\***

The secretariat has received from the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) the proposal reproduced below.

**SUMMARY**

*Analytical summary:* As a result of the modification of special provisions 188 and 230, it will no longer be possible, once the transitional measure expires, to transport lithium cells or batteries manufactured before 1 July 2003 which have not been tested in accordance with the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*, Part III, subsection 38.3.

*Action to be taken:* Inclusion of a transitional measure in Chapter 1.6 or a new special provision in Chapter 3.3 assigned to UN Nos. 3090 and 3091, in accordance with which lithium cells and batteries manufactured before 1 July 2003 may continue to be carried for a period of 10 years.

*Related documents:* None.

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\* Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT-III/2003/63.

## **Introduction**

According to RID/ADR/2001 special provision 188, lithium cells and batteries were only subject to the requirements of RID/ADR if the conditions of the Regulations/Agreement were complied with.

With the entry into force of RID/ADR/2003, this special provision was amended to indicate that only lithium cells and batteries meeting the conditions for a single type which has been proved to meet the requirements of all the tests in the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*, Part III, subsection 38.3, are not subject to RID/ADR.

This means that lithium cells and batteries manufactured before 1 July 2003, which have not been tested in accordance with the requirements of the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*, Part III, subsection 38.3, and appliances containing such lithium cells or batteries, are subject to the full scope of RID/ADR on expiry of the transitional measure.

In view, however, of the fact that in accordance with subsection 2.2.9.2 only lithium cells and batteries meeting the conditions of special provisions 188, 230, 287 or 636 are accepted for carriage, lithium cells and batteries manufactured before 1 July 2003 which have not been tested in accordance with the requirements of the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*, Part III, subsection 38.3, and appliances containing such lithium cells or batteries, are no longer accepted for carriage.

Many of these lithium cells and batteries are still in circulation, however, and now can no longer be carried for the purpose of disposal.

## **Proposal**

In order to continue to make it possible to carry lithium cells and batteries manufactured before 1 July 2003 which have not been tested in accordance with the requirements of the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*, Part III, subsection 38.3, and appliances containing such lithium cells or batteries, the Government of Germany proposes that a transitional measure should be included in Chapter 1.6, to read:

**“1.1.6.x** Lithium cells and batteries manufactured before 1 July 2003 which have not been tested in accordance with the requirements of the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*, Part III, subsection 38.3, and appliances containing such lithium cells or batteries, may continue to be carried up to 30 June 2013 if all the other pertinent requirements are satisfactory.”

Alternatively, the proposed text could equally be included in a special provision (6xx) specific to RID/ADR, which would be assigned to UN Nos. 3090 and 3091.

**Justification**

Safety:

There are no major reservations since these lithium cells and batteries have been carried for years. A transport operation which has not been authorized and is therefore difficult to monitor harbours much greater hazards.

Feasibility:

No problem since this type of transport operation has been conducted for years.

Implementation:

If this transitional measure were not to be adopted, the carriage of lithium cells and batteries manufactured before 1 July 2003 which have not been tested in accordance with the requirements of the *Manual of Tests and Criteria*, Part III, subsection 38.3, and appliances containing these lithium cells or batteries, would no longer be possible, and would equally not be possible for disposal purposes.

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