

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

(Eighty-first session,

Geneva, 25-27 October 2006)

Agenda item 4

LANGUAGES TO BE USED IN THE TRANSPORT DOCUMENT

(Reproduction of INF.8 from UIC submitted to the Joint Meeting
at its September 2006 session)

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat reproduces hereafter an informal document submitted by UIC to the Joint Meeting RID/ADR/ADN at its September session.

The Joint Meeting noted the suggestion by UIC to amend paragraph 5.4.1.4.1 of ADR to remove reference to the possibility of using languages other than English, French or German when so envisaged by international tariffs. Justification for the suggestion was harmonization with RID and the need to prevent transport documents being drawn up in languages other than those agreed between the competent authorities of the countries concerned.

The Joint Meeting thought it was advisable to ask WP.15 to check whether this reference is still necessary.

OTIF



ORGANISATION INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE POUR
LES TRANSPORTS INTERNATIONAUX FERROVIAIRES

ZWISCHENSTAATLICHE ORGANISATION FÜR DEN
INTERNATIONALEN EISENBAHNVERKEHR

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR INTER-
NATIONAL CARRIAGE BY RAIL

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RID/ADR

Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Geneva, 11 – 15 September 2006)

Languages to be used in the transport document

Proposal transmitted by the International Union of Railways (UIC)

Introduction

At its 42nd session (Madrid, 21 – 25 November 2005) the RID Committee of Experts decided that only States concerned by the transport operation should be entitled to agree on rules that differ from the rules in RID 5.4.1.4.1 concerning the language(s) to be used. It therefore rejected the additional reference proposed by Belgium in document OCTI/RID/CE/42/5a) to the tariffs of the station of departure and the reference proposed by CIT in document OCTI/RID/CE/42/5k) to agreements between the parties to the contract of carriage (see report A 81-03/501.2006, paragraphs 22 and 23).

As a result of this decision by the RID Committee of Experts, differences continue to exist between RID and ADR with regard to the languages to be used in the transport document, as ADR still allows different rules on the languages to be used by means of international tariffs. In contrast, RID only allows derogations by the States concerned in the transport operation.

The text of RID 5.4.1.4.1 that will apply from 1 January 2007 reads as follows:

"5.4.1.4.1 The transport document shall be filled out in one or more languages, one of which shall be English, French or German, unless any agreements concluded between the countries concerned in the transport operation provide otherwise."

For reasons of cost, only a limited number of copies of this document have been made. Delegates are asked to bring their own copies of documents to meetings. OTIF only has a small number of copies available.

Proposal

The differences that exist between RID and ADR should be removed.

UIC therefore suggests that the texts in RID/ADR 5.4.1.4.1 be checked by the Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the UNECE Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, with the aim of harmonising them.

Justification

From the UIC's point of view, there are no legal or any other reasons that would justify the different rules in RID and ADR. It would be particularly welcome with a view to combined rail/road transport if the provisions of RID/ADR concerning the languages to be used were also harmonised.
