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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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

**PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO RID/ADR/ADN\* \*\***

**Chapter 3.3, new special provision for certain goods of UN No. 2990**

**Proposal from the European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA)**

**Exemption of small quantities in life-saving appliances**

**SUMMARY**

***Executive summary:*** For UN No. 2990, exemption of small quantities, align with the IMDG Code, special provision 956.

***Action to be taken:*** Add a new special provision 6xx for UN No. 2990 in Chapter 3.2, table A.

***Related documents:*** None.

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\* 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 Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2008/14.

## **Introduction**

1. Life-saving appliances of UN No. 2990 containing no dangerous goods other than carbon dioxide cylinders with a capacity not exceeding 100 cm<sup>3</sup> are not subject to the IMDG Code, provided that they are overpacked in wooden or cardboard boxes with a maximum gross mass of 40 kg (see special provision 956 of the IMDG Code).

## **Problems encountered**

2. The life-saving appliances assigned to UN No. 2990 comprise a group of dangerous articles that, in terms of the type and quantity of dangerous goods they contain, are quite different from one another. For example, the only dangerous goods in the life vests that must be carried on boats are small carbon dioxide receptacles not generally containing more than 65 g of gas apiece.

3. Life vests must be transported, by road and rail for example, to the boats that will carry them or to replace used life vests. They may be carried by maritime transport in packages of up to 40 kg gross mass, without being bound by the IMDG Code. There is no comparable exemption for overland transport. The carriage of such life vests by overland transport is subject to requirements that are stricter than those for maritime transport.

## **Justification**

4. Unharmonized regulations make life harder for the enterprises concerned when life vests are transported and distributed, although there is no special safety-related need for this to happen.

## **Solution**

5. To bring the regulations into line, a new special provision corresponding to provision 956 of the IMDG Code should be added to Chapter 3.3 of RID/ADR/ADN.

6. As there is no comparable special provision for air traffic, there is no need to amend the Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.

## **Proposal**

7. In the entry for UN No. 2990 of table A, add “6xx” in column 6.

8. Insert the following new special provision 6xx in Chapter 3.3:

“**6xx** Consignments of life vests containing no dangerous goods other than carbon dioxide cylinders with a capacity not exceeding 100 cm<sup>3</sup>, provided that they are overpacked in wooden or fibreboard boxes with a maximum gross mass of 40 kg, are not subject to the requirements of RID/ADR/ADN.”

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