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Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Bern, 22-26 March 2010

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

STANDARDS

Working procedures of the Working Group on Standards - Proposed characterization
of standards referenced in RID/ADR/ADN

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

1. CEN refers to the outcome of the last session (see paragraphs 3 – 6 of the report ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/116) on the approach by Sweden to achieve a continuous process of updating standards referenced in RID/ADR/ADN (see ECE/TRANS/WP.15/2009/2 (Sweden), Informal document INF.17 (Sweden), and ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2020/7).
2. It is also referred to the statement of the CEN Consultant during the September 2009 session stating that a requirement to subject any of the standards referred to in RID/ADR/ADN to the treatment by the Working Group on Standards (WG STD's) would not be adequate and that a differentiation of standards would be necessary to limit the tasks of the WG STD's.
3. It is recalled that the Joint Meeting agreed with CEN at its session in September 2005 to follow the "Revised Procedure of Cooperation with the European Committee for Standardization

¹ 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)).

² Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2010/31.

(CEN) to ensure conformity of EN standards with RID/ADR/ADN safety requirements for the purpose of incorporation by reference” (see ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/100/Add.3 and that the terms of reference of the working group are restricted to commenting as to whether a standard complies with the requirements of the RID/ADR/ADN. It is made aware that many standards referenced in RID/ADR/ADN are not related to provisions of RID/ADR/ADN and that such compliance judgement is not possible.

4. Furthermore, a large and increasing number of standards (ISO, IEC, ASTM and others) are incorporated in RID/ADR/ADN as a result of the efforts to align these regulations with the UN Model Regulations. However, CEN has no authority to deal with these standards under the same agreed procedures, except for standards developed as EN ISO standards under the Vienna Agreement.

5. CEN is now submitting the draft of a scheme deemed to differentiate those standards which are subject to the agreed rules (framed fields) and those which – for different reasons – are recommended to be kept outside the scope of work of the standards working group. Secondly, a table of all standards (EN, EN ISO, ISO, IEC, and others) referenced in the 2009 issue of RID, ADN and ADR has been prepared, two pages of which are added to this document for demonstration (see Annex). This table includes symbols to characterise the standards and the reference text.

6. As a result of this effort it should be mentioned that 432 paragraphs in RID, ADN and ADR refer to standards (including repeated references and reference to different issues of the same standard),

- (a) 173 of which are European standards (EN, EN ISO and EN ISO IEC);
- (b) 99 international standards (ISO and IEC);
- (c) 22 national standards (ASTM, BS, DIN, NF); and
- (d) 2 industry standards (IP, NFPA).

7. The table is also intended to keep track on all standard references. However, this continuous effort needs to be organized. CEN would be prepared to care about the EN and EN ISO standards in this table which was set up by the CEN consultant with the support of the German Federal Institute for Materials Research and testing (BAM). After agreement on the principles a final scheme and table could be prepared for the next session in September 2010.

8. Characterization scheme

The following scheme is proposed:

Characterization scheme for standards referenced in RID/ADR/ADN			
Character of standard and of reference			Application of standard
Requirements included in RID/ADR/ADN		Absence of RID/ADR/ADN- requirements	
General purpose standard	Dedicated standard	General purpose standard	
Supportive	Supportive	Informative	
Regulatory		Regulatory	
			Binding

9. Explanations:

Terms and symbols	Explanations	Examples for reference texts and standards
Inclusion or absence of RID/ADR/ADN requirements	RID/ADR/ADN subsections/ paragraphs referring to standards include or don't include requirements to which the referenced standard is related. In the absence of requirements a referenced standard has either an informative or regulatory character depending from the wording of the reference text.	
General purpose standard	Shall mean a standard which has been developed outside the domain of the transport of dangerous goods by experts in other fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Standards on the establishments of physical properties of dangerous goods, – Standards on mechanical properties of materials and its testing, – Standards on the chemical and physical compatibility of filling substances and construction materials, – Freight container standards, – Standards on equipment of vehicles and personnel.
Dedicated standard	EN or EN ISO Standard referring to RID/ADR/ADN in the title, foreword or introduction and related to existing RID/ADR/ADN-requirements. Typically, standards established under the EC-Mandate M/086 fall under this category. These standards include the following sentence in the foreword: <i>"This standard has been submitted for reference into the RID and/or in the technical annexes of the ADR."</i> References to dedicated standards may have a supportive or regulatory character and the application may be voluntary or binding which is decided by the reference text. Non-EN standards (ISO, IEC, etc.) are not considered to be dedicated standards under this scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Basically all standards on the design, construction, testing and marking of pressure receptacles and tanks, – Some packaging standards

Terms and symbols	Explanations	Examples for reference texts and standards
Informative reference (I) Supportive reference (S)	Standard is adding information to a regulation/provision, which can be executed also without the referenced standard. Application is always voluntary. Standards referenced in Notes added in RID/ADR/ADN are generally considered to be informative and voluntary. Standard supplements a regulation/provision, which can be executed also without reference, however with the risk of different interpretations. Application may be voluntary or binding, which is decided by the reference text. In the absence of requirements referenced standards are considered not supportive, but informative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “e.g. as described in EN...,” – “which are similar to EN...,” – “such as EN...” – “EN... provides additional guidance.” – “... is, according to EN...,” – “in accordance with EN...,”
Regulatory reference (R)	Standard replaces or complements substantially a provision. Application is binding except that the alternative is indicated in the regulation. Regulatory standards are always binding.	<p>“... shall be carried out, in accordance with the requirements of EN...”</p> <p>“... shall comply with the relevant requirements of EN...”</p>
Voluntary application (V)	The application of a standard is subject to the decision of the user. However, with respect to liability he may be asked to demonstrate comparability of the selected alternative solution. Alternative solutions are sometimes subject to the agreement of the competent authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “The requirements of ... are considered to have been complied with if the following standard is applied.” – “... as specified in the approval or in ISO ...”
Binding application (B)	The referenced standard has the same status as the regulation itself. There is no alternative solution to comply with the regulation.	<p>“... the standards listed in the table below shall be applied as indicated ...”</p> <p>“The following standards apply for the design, ...”</p>
Framed fields	Standards that are subject to the Working Group on Standards	