



**Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification
and Labelling of Chemicals****Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods****Forty-eighth session**

Geneva, 30 November – 9 December 2015

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Global harmonization of transport of dangerous goods
regulations with the Model Regulations****Proposal to insert the definition “Reference steel” in section
1.2.1 of the UN Model Regulations****Transmitted by the observer from Romania¹****Introduction**

1. The current text of the Model Regulations includes the definition of “Reference steel” in each of the sub-sections 6.7.2.1, 6.7.3.1 and 6.7.4.1.
2. The current text of RID/ADR/ADN includes the same definition of “Reference steel” in section 1.2.1 and sub-sections 6.7.2.1, 6.7.3.1 and 6.7.4.1, as follows:
“Reference steel means a steel with a tensile strength of 370 N/mm² and an elongation at fracture of 27%.”
3. Further analysing the subject, the observer from Romania found out that the definition for “Reference steel” in 1.2.1, is in place in RID/ADR since 2001 (the first restructured edition) and it coexisted with the similar texts in 6.7.2.1, 6.7.3.1 and 6.7.4.1.
4. The Romanian observer attending the forty-seventh session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods of June 2015, proposed in informal document INF.30 to delete the definition “*Reference steel*” in 6.7.2.1, 6.7.3.1 and 6.7.4.1.

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2015–2016 approved by the Committee at its seventh session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/92, paragraph 95 and ST/SG/AC.10/42, para. 15).

5. The document was discussed and the Sub-Committee decided, as follows:

“76. The observer from Romania was invited to submit his proposal to move the definition of “Reference steel” that can be found three times in Chapter 6.7 to Chapter 1.2 through an official document at the next session. He was also invited to check that the definition given in Chapter 6.7 would also be valid when the term is used in other chapters, for example in 6.5.5.1.6 for IBCs.”
5. The proposal is consistent with the Guiding Principles for Chapter 1.2 – definitions and units of measurements – which stipulate: “*Definitions and units of measurements of general applicability used throughout the Model Regulations are listed here. However, some additional definitions that are specific to relevant Chapters of the Model Regulations are found at the beginning of those Chapters (such as the definition of ‘security’ found in Note 2 to Chapter 1.4.)*” because the term “Reference steel” is used in Chapter 4.2 and Chapter 6.5 also (e.g. 4.2.5.2.2, 4.2.5.2.6 and 6.5.5.1.6).
6. In order to solve the difference in the manner of defining or choosing the reference steel for metal IBCs, we propose to introduce a Note under the definition of “Reference steel” in section 1.2.1. The instrument used in sub-section **6.5.5.1 Specific requirements for metal IBCs** offers certain flexibility for choosing a reference steel (as mentioned in 6.5.5.1.6 (a): *For a reference steel having a product of $R_m \times A_o = 10000$, the wall thickness shall not be less than:[...]*) and this method shall be maintained.

Proposal

8. Insert the definition “Reference steel” in section 1.2.1 Definitions, as follows:

“Reference steel means a steel with a tensile strength of 370 N/mm² and an elongation at fracture of 27%,”

Note: For metal IBCs, see 6.5.5.1.
 9. Delete the definitions of “Reference steel” from 6.7.2.1, 6.7.3.1 and 6.7.4.1.
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