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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, 19-23 September 2016

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

##### Interpretation of RID/ADR/ADN

## Entering the technical name in the transport document

Transmitted by the International Union of Railways (UIC)<sup>1, 2</sup>

### Introduction

1. Following a check carried out by the authorities in an RID Contracting State in accordance with RID 1.8.1, a member of UIC has raised the question of whether the provisions of 5.4.1.4.1 also apply to a technical name that might be required in accordance with Chapter 3.2, Table A, column (6), special provision 274 or 318.

### Language regime in RID/ADR/ADN

2. RID/ADR/ADN 5.4.1.4.1 reads as follows:

(RID:)

“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.

In addition to the information required in 5.4.1.1 and 5.4.1.2, a cross shall be entered in the appropriate box if the transport document to be used provides for this, for example the

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2016-2017, (ECE/TRANS/2016/28/Add.1 (9.2)).

<sup>2</sup> Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2016/33.

consignment note in accordance with CIM or the wagon note in accordance with the General Contract of Use for Wagons (GCU).”

(ADR:)

“The document containing the information in 5.4.1.1 and 5.4.1.2 may be that already required by other regulations in force for carriage by another mode of carriage. In case of multiple consignees, the name and address of the consignees and the quantities delivered enabling the nature and quantities carried to be evaluated at any time, may be entered in other documents which are to be used or in any other documents made mandatory according to other specific regulations and which shall be on board the vehicle.

The particulars to be entered in the document shall be drafted in an official language of the forwarding country, and also, if that language is not English, French, or German, in English, French or German, unless international road carriage tariffs, if any, or agreements concluded between the countries concerned in the transport operation, provide otherwise.”

(ADN:)

“The document containing the information in 5.4.1.1 and 5.4.1.2 may be that already required by other regulations in force for carriage by another mode of carriage. In case of multiple consignees, the name and address of the consignees and the quantities delivered enabling the nature and quantities carried to be evaluated at any time, may be entered in other documents which are to be used or in any other documents made mandatory according to other specific regulations and which shall be on board.

The particulars to be entered in the document shall be drafted in an official language of the forwarding country, and also, if that language is not English, French or German, in English, French or German, unless agreements concluded between the countries concerned in the transport operation, provide otherwise.”

### **Provisions concerning the technical name in RID/ADR/ADN**

3. The technical name is defined in RID/ADR/ADN 3.1.2.8.1.1 as follows:

“The technical name shall be a recognized chemical name or biological name, or other name currently used in scientific and technical handbooks, journals and texts. Trade names shall not be used for this purpose. In the case of pesticides, only ISO common name(s), other name(s) in the World Health Organization (WHO) Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and Guidelines to Classification, or the name(s) of the active substance(s) may be used.”

### **Question of interpretation**

4. According to the wording of 5.4.1.4.1, it seems clear that a technical name in English, French or German must also be shown in the transport document.

5. However, it seems entirely possible that there are technical names that only exist in a different national language and for which there is no “official” designation/translation in English, French or German. There is also the fact that the IMDG Code does not contain any provisions on the language to be used in the transport document, so in maritime import transport, technical names in a language other than English, French or German might appear.

6. Against this background, UIC requests the Joint Meeting for information on the following questions:

- a) Do the provisions of RID/ADR/ADN 5.4.1.4.1 also apply to the technical name?
  - b) In the context of his obligations in accordance with Chapter 1.4, must a carrier be in a position to judge whether a technical name has been correctly entered in the transport document (e.g. correct spelling, correct language (English, French or German))?
7. UIC is of the view that the answer to question b) at least is “no”.
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