

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

3 September 2019

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

Geneva, 17–27 September 2019

Item 7 of the provisional agenda:

Reports of informal working groups

Report on the discussion on the use of the terms *risk* and *hazard* at the 55th session of the UNSCETDG

Transmitted by the Government of Romania

Introduction

1. As mentioned in the report of the September 2018 session (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/152, paras. 47-50), the Joint Meeting invited the representative of Romania to bring the proposals of amendments to the UN Model Regulations regarding the use of the terms *risk* and *hazard* to the attention of the TDG Sub-Committee at its fifty-fifth session (July 2019) in an official document.

2. In these circumstances, Romania submitted the working document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2019/22 accompanied by the informal document INF.4 for discussion on the agenda of summer 2019 sessions of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. Informal documents INF.17 and INF.26 of Switzerland, and Informal document INF.42 of Canada were also registered on the same subject.

3. The report of the summer 2019 sessions of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/110, para. 83-86), noted the follows:

83. The Sub-Committee thanked the experts from Romania and Switzerland for the work done on the topic and invited participants to carefully consider the amendments proposed in the documents with the view of determining which ones could be considered of an editorial nature and therefore be adopted without further consideration.

84. It was pointed out that discussions on this subject were currently taking place at the Joint Meeting and that the outcome of those discussions should be taken into account in a future proposal to amend the Model Regulations.

85. Regarding amendments to the Manual of Tests and Criteria, it was pointed out that a lot of work had already been done on the subject by the working group on explosives and it had been included in the seventh revised edition of the Manual, which should be used as starting point for future work.

86. It was agreed to create a correspondence working group under the leadership of Romania and it was suggested that, to facilitate the work, a few principles should be agreed on (i.e., common understanding of the meaning of “risk” and “hazard” and minimizing the use of the words risk/hazard/danger in contexts that are not relevant to their specific meaning).

4. We received several comments and observations from Switzerland, Canada, United Kingdom, Netherlands and Belgium so far. This information, contained in a consolidated table, will be made available to the members of the group, as well as to those interested.

5. From the various observations, we wish to highlight the new proposal of Belgium regarding the generic name of dangerous goods related to chapter 1.10 of RID/ADR/ADN (chapter 1.4 of UNMR).

Thus,

- in EN> “**high consequence dangerous goods**” is proposed to be replaced by “**high risk dangerous goods**” and
- in FR> “**marchandises dangereuses à haut risque**” may still be used or replaced by “**marchandises dangereuses à risque élevé**”.

The initial proposal of the Group consisted in adapting the French version after the English by replacing “**marchandises dangereuses à haut risque**” by “**marchandises dangereuses à haut potentiel de dommages**”.

6. Is the use of the term risk in the context of security provisions correct? Could we anticipate the vision of the Sub-Committee of experts on this issue? Do we have to leave both proposals or can we settle on one of them?

7. To analyse the comments made so far for the UN Model Regulations, we propose a meeting of the Group members in the second week of the Joint Meeting, in a lunch break.
