



# Economic and Social Council

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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

Bern, 25-28 March 2024

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

##### Proposals for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN: new proposals

### Transport of animal material containing infectious substances (UN 3373)

Transmitted by the Government of Sweden<sup>\*,\*\*</sup>

#### *Summary*

<b>Executive summary:</b>	Develop appropriate transport provisions for animal material.
<b>Action to be taken:</b>	Assign special provision for carriage in bulk "VC3" to animal material classified under UN 3373.

### Introduction

1. African swine fever has been found in a limited number of wild boars in a specific area in Sweden. This is just one example of infectious animal diseases that tend to break out in different parts of the world. It seems that more and more animal material containing infectious substances is discovered and there is a need to be able to transport e.g. infected carcasses in a larger scale in a safe manner.
2. Bulk container codes BK1 and BK2 are assigned to UN 3373 Biological substance, category B (animal material only). In Sweden, it is difficult to find these types of approved multimodal bulk containers. Additionally, there is no special bulk provision, identified by the code "VC" assigned to this UN number in Column (17) to facilitate urgent transport.
3. For UN 3291 Clinical waste, unspecified n.o.s. (Category B) special bulk provision "VC3" is assigned. In the view of Sweden, it seems appropriate and logical that "VC3" should also be assigned to UN 3373, which also applies to Category B substances.

\* A/78/6 (Sect.20), table 20.5.

\*\* Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2024/22.



4. "VC3" permits carriage in bulk in specially equipped wagons/vehicles or containers in accordance with standards specified by the competent authority of the country of origin. The competent authority for the transport of dangerous goods may then decide on appropriate transport conditions together with the national authority responsible for animal and human health. There are also European regulations in place for transmissible animal diseases. In order to enable the transport of larger volumes and quantities of animal material containing infectious substances in bulk, Sweden proposes to assign "VC3" to UN 3373 as follows.

## **Proposal**

5. For UN 3373 (second entry), insert special provision for carriage in bulk "VC3" in Column (17) of Table A in Chapter 3.2.

## **Additional question and further work**

6. In line with the situation described for Category B above, animal material may also be classified as Category A (UN numbers 2814 and 2900), and in the opinion of Sweden, it is important that infected carcasses containing category A substances also can be transported in bulk under certain conditions. Bulk container codes BK1 and BK2 are already assigned to UN 2814 and 2900 (third entries (animal material), respectively) and no special bulk provision, identified by the code "VC" has been assigned to these UN numbers in Column (17), which causes difficulties when larger quantities of carcasses containing infectious substances quickly need to be transported for disposal, e.g. incineration.

7. According to packing instructions P620 (UN 2814 and UN 2900) and P650 (UN 3373), alternative packagings for the carriage of animal material may be authorized by the competent authority. Therefore, it seems appropriate that the competent authority also has the possibility to authorize transport of animal material in bulk with suitable transport conditions.

8. Sweden wonders if other countries think it would be appropriate to also assign special bulk provision, e.g. VC3, to animal material classified under UN 2814 or UN 2900. This would facilitate for the competent authority to approve a safe transport of bulky and voluminous infectious goods under specific conditions when outbreaks of different diseases occur. The existing special provision for carriage in bulk "VC3" could be inserted for these UN numbers as well. Furthermore, it could be considered if an approval should be issued by the competent authority of the country of origin and perhaps also by the competent authority of each country concerned by the specific carriage.

9. Additionally, Sweden believes that we have to be prepared for larger outbreaks of infectious diseases such as Ebola. Such diseases may generate large amounts of solid medical waste from e.g. medical treatment of humans. There might be a need to transport such waste in bulk, but with the current provisions this is not possible. Solid medical waste containing Category A infectious substances is classified under UN 3549 and no bulk codes are assigned to this UN number.

10. Based on this information, Sweden would like to hear the views from other countries if it would be wise to assign special bulk provision to UN 3549. Appropriate transport conditions for the waste would then be decided nationally together with the national authority responsible for human health. If this way forward is supported, it should also be discussed if only the competent authority of the country of origin should approve the transport or if the competent authority of all countries concerned by a carriage should be involved in the approval process.

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