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Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Bern, 20-24 March 2006)

NEW PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO RID/ADR/ADN

Carriage of Bitumen under RID/ADR

Transmitted by the Government of the United Kingdom

SUMMARY	
Executive Summary:	This proposal seeks to include references to UN 3256 and UN 3257 in table B of 3.2 in RID/ADR against the entry for Bitumen to enable carriers to use these numbers in addition to UN 1999. This will provide options for Bitumen to be carried at higher temperatures than carriage under UN 1999 allows.
Action to be taken:	Amend table B of Chapter 3.2 in RID/ADR to include references to UN 3256 and UN 3257 as well as UN1999 under the entry for Bitumen.
Related documents:	INF.33 (September 2005 Joint Meeting)

1. Background

Currently, when attempting to locate the UN number for Bitumen in the alphabetical listing in table B of Chapter 3.2, the reader is referred only to UN 1999 (TARS, LIQUID, including road asphalt and oils, bitumen and cutbacks). There are six separate entries under UN 1999 in table A of Chapter 3.2 depending on the flash-point and vapour pressure of the material

**/* Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT-III/2006/5.

to be transported. However, all six entries are classified as class 3 (flammable liquids). There are no options within this classification for tar products with flash-points above 61°C, which are non-flammable for transport.

However, as Bitumen products are viscous, they are often transported at elevated temperatures to ensure that they are maintained in a liquid state. It is commonplace in both road and rail industry for Bitumen products to be transported in tanks as a class 9 substance under UN 3257 (ELEVATED TEMPERATURE LIQUID, N.O.S., at or above 100°C and below its flash-point (including molten metals, molten salts etc.)), or as class 3 substance UN 3256 (ELEVATED TEMPERATURE LIQUID, FLAMMABLE, N.O.S with flash-point above 61°C, at or above its flash-point). This is borne out by the fact that Special Provision TE24 concerning the carriage of Bitumen is allocated to both UN 3256 and UN 3257. Therefore, these entries should be referenced against Bitumen in table B of chapter 3.2 in addition to UN 1999.

2. Proposal

The United Kingdom proposes, in table B of 3.2 in RID/ADR, to include references to UN 3256 and UN 3257, in addition to UN 1999, as possible UN numbers for Bitumen. This would give complete coverage for Bitumen products with flashpoints from under 23°C to above 61°C, and would offer the appropriate extra options to industry wishing to carry such products.

3. Justification and Safety implications

This allows more choice for industry, and indeed reflects current practice. There are no safety implications as it is simply a measure correcting an area of confusion in RID/ADR.

4. Feasibility and Enforceability

There are no feasibility concerns as the proposal reflects existing practice. Enforceability should be improved as the amendment would help to avoid confusion when classifying substances.
