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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, 11-21 September 2007
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

INTERPRETATION OF RID/ADR/ADN ^{*/}

Clarification of the Definition of "Liquid"

Transmitted by the Government of the United States of America

Introduction

1. Clarification is sought with respect to the following definition in Chapter 1.2.1 of the ADR:

"Liquid" means a substance which at 50 °C has a vapour pressure of not more than 300 kPa (3 bar), which is not completely gaseous at 20 °C and 101.3 kPa, and which

- (a) has a melting point or initial melting point of 20 °C or less at a pressure of 101.3 kPa; or
- (b) is liquid according to the ASTM D 4359-90 test method; or

^{*/} / Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2007/61.

(c) is not pasty according to the criteria applicable to the test for determining fluidity (penetrometer test) described in 2.3.4;”

2. Recently a question has been raised as to what classification should be given to a material which is a liquid under (b) but is pasty according to the penetrometer test in (c).

3. The definition appears to require that if a material meets the criteria of (a), (b), or (c), the material must be classed as a liquid. Clarification is sought from the Joint Meeting in order to provide correct guidance.
