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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, 17–27 September 2013

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN:

New proposals

Ventilation of wagons/vehicles carrying packages containing a coolant

Transmitted by the Government of France^{1,2}

Summary

Executive summary: Make specific provision for unventilated refrigerated wagons/vehicles subject to the provisions of 5.5.3.

Action to be taken: Amend the text of 5.5.3.3.3.

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2010–2014 (ECE/TRANS/208, para. 106 and ECE/TRANS/2010/8, programme activity 02.7 (c)).

² Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2013/44.

Introduction

1. Paragraph 5.5.3.3.3 of RID/ADR/ADN stipulates that packages containing a coolant or conditioner shall be carried in well-ventilated wagons/vehicles/containers.
2. Certain non-dangerous goods, such as intermediate products used in vaccines or cell banks, may need to be not only conditioned with dry ice (UN No. 1845) but also transported in vehicles equipped with a refrigerating unit to regulate the temperature of the load compartment. These procedures are designed to control the process of sublimation of the dry ice in order to ensure the quality of the products.
3. These refrigerated vehicles cannot, by definition, be equipped with a ventilation system. The refrigerating unit sucks air into the tank, cools it by passing it through an evaporator, and blows it out from the top to cool the load compartment. In order to ensure the proper functioning of the mechanically refrigerated equipment, there must be no supply of new air in the tank.
4. We therefore propose amending the text of 5.5.3.3.3.

Proposal

5. The proposal is to amend the text of paragraph 5.5.3.3.3 as follows (new text is in bold):

“Packages containing a coolant or conditioner shall be carried in well ventilated vehicles and containers. **This provision does not apply to vehicles [using dry ice as a coolant and]¹ equipped with refrigerating units that must be in operation to conserve the load.**”

Note: The expert from France is aware of this problem only in relation to dry ice, but it might apply more generally to other coolants.
