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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, 13-17 March 2017

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Tanks**Demountable tanks and tank-containers — Interpretation of
definitions**

Transmitted by the Government of France*, **

Introduction*Summary*

Executive summary:	Establish whether a tank meets the definition of a demountable tank or a tank-container
Reference documents:	ADR 2017, Chapter 1.2

1. According to Chapter 1.2 of ADR, the term “*demountable tank*” means a tank, other than a fixed tank, a portable tank, a tank-container or an element of a battery-vehicle or a MEGC which has a capacity of more than 450 litres, is not designed for the carriage of goods without breakage of load, and normally can only be handled when it is empty.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2016-2017, (ECE/TRANS/2016/28/Add.1 (9.2)).

** Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2017/21.



2. According to Chapter 1.2 of RID/ADR, “*tank-container*” means an article of transport equipment meeting the definition of a container, and comprising a shell and items of equipment, including the equipment to facilitate movement of the tank-container without significant change of attitude, used for the carriage of gases, liquid, powdery or granular substances and, when used for the carriage of gases as defined in 2.2.2.1.1, having a capacity of more than 0.45 m³ (450 litres).
3. “*Container*” means an article of transport equipment (lift van or other similar structure):
 - Of a permanent character and accordingly strong enough to be suitable for repeated use;
 - Specially designed to facilitate the carriage of goods, by one or more means of transport, without breakage of load;
 - Fitted with devices permitting its ready stowage and handling, particularly when being transloaded from one means of transport to another;
 - So designed as to be easy to fill and empty;
 - Having an internal volume of not less than 1 m³, except for containers for the carriage of radioactive material.
4. A demountable tank is used only for road transport, while a tank-container is usually a multimodal unit.
5. The question arises of whether a tank intended for the carriage of gases, such as that shown in annex, whose service equipment is protected by a cabinet that is located at the rear when the tank is mounted on a road vehicle and is lower than the chassis of the vehicle, can be considered as a tank-container or must be seen as a removable tank.
6. We are of the view that such a tank, which can be attached only to a specific chassis frame, cannot be transloaded from one means of transport to another and simply cannot be removed because of the position of the cabinet, cannot be considered to be a tank-container.
7. We would like to know the opinion of the Joint Meeting on this issue.

Annex

