

## **Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General 21 December 2016

English

Original: French

### **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

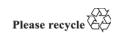
tank or a tank-container

**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.

GE.16-22642 (E) 060117 090117







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

<sup>\*\*</sup> 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:
  - <u>Specially designed to facilitate the carriage</u> of goods, by one or more means of transport, without breakage of load;
  - <u>Fitted with devices permitting</u> its ready stowage and <u>handling</u>, <u>particularly when</u> 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 m<sup>3</sup>, 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.

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## Annex



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