

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

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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN: new proposals

12 March 2019

Special provision 389

Proposal transmitted by the Secretariat of OTIF

Introduction

1. The Secretariat of OTIF has received various enquiries concerning the interpretation of special provision 389, including in the context of ADR.
2. In the process of harmonising RID/ADR/ADN with the 20th edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, special provision 389 was carried over into RID/ADR/ADN. It is only assigned to UN No. 3536 LITHIUM BATTERIES INSTALLED IN CARGO TRANSPORT UNITS.
3. The last sentence of special provision 389 in the UN Recommendations reads as follows:

« The cargo transport unit shall display the UN number in accordance with 5.3.2.1.2 and be placarded on two opposing sides in accordance with 5.3.1.1.2. »
4. The last sentence of special provision 389 in RID/ADR/ADN reads as follows:

« The cargo transport unit shall bear orange-coloured plates in accordance with 5.3.2.2 and placards in accordance with 5.3.1.1 on two opposing sides. »
5. The texts of RID on the one hand and ADR/ADN on the other are identical, but RID 5.3.2.1.1 specifies that orange-coloured plates have to be affixed to cargo transport units of UN No. 3536. As there are no orange-coloured plates in RID without providing the hazard identification number and UN number, hazard identification number 90 was included in column 20 of Table A for UN No. 3536. So in RID at least, it is clear that the orange-coloured plates have to include the information « 90 / 3536 ».
6. As column 20 of Table A in ADR does not indicate any hazard identification number, the text must be understood to mean that orange-coloured plates have to be affixed to both sides without indicating the hazard identification number and UN number.
7. In addition, orange-coloured plates that are only affixed to both sides, but not to the front and rear of the transport unit, do not comply with the ADR system.
8. At the ad hoc working group on harmonising RID/ADR/ADN with the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, only the references were adapted when special provision 389 was carried over. 5.3.1.1 and 5.3.2.2 refer to the design of the placards and orange-coloured plates, but do not say where they have to be affixed.

9. The Secretariat of OTIF is of the view that this should be clarified in special provision 389. In order to be user-friendly, the requirements of the special provision should, if possible, correspond to the usual requirements in relation to the affixing of placards and orange-coloured plates.

10. As cargo transport units may be a wagon/vehicle or container according to the definition in 1.2.1, the differences that exist in relation to wagons/vehicles and containers would have to be described in special provision 389.

Proposals

11. Amend the last sentence of special provision 389 to read as follows:

« The cargo transport unit shall bear orange-coloured plates in accordance with 5.3.2.2 and placards in accordance with 5.3.1.1, as follows:

(a) Placards:

– for containers, on both sides and at each end;

(RID:)

– for wagons, on both sides; this shall also apply to wagons carrying containers if the placards affixed to the containers are no longer visible;

(ADR:)

– for vehicles, on both sides and at the rear; this shall also apply to vehicles carrying containers if the placards affixed to the containers are no longer visible;

(b) orange-coloured plates <(ADR only:) with hazard identification number and UN number>:

– for containers, on both sides;

(RID:)

– for wagons, on both sides; this shall also apply to wagons carrying containers if the orange-coloured plates affixed to the containers are no longer visible;

(ADR:)

– for vehicles, on both sides; this shall also apply to vehicles carrying containers if the orange-coloured plates affixed to the containers are no longer visible. The cargo transport units shall also bear orange-coloured plates at the front and rear. »

12. (ADR only:) In column 20 of Table A of Chapter 3.2, for UN No. 3536, insert:

« 90 ».

13. (RID only:) In 5.3.2.1.1, delete the penultimate sub-paragraph.
