



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, 25-28 March 2024

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposal for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN**New proposals****Definition of “closed vehicle” in 1.2.1 of ADR****Transmitted by the Government of the Netherlands* *****Summary*

Executive summary:	The definition of closed vehicle needs to be amended to explain that bodies of closed vehicles shall be constructed with all rigid panels.
Action to be taken:	Amend the definition of closed vehicle.
Related documents:	Informal document INF.8 of the 114 th session of WP.15 (November 2023) and report ECE/TRANS/WP.15/264, paragraphs 52-53.

I. Introduction

1. At the 114th session of WP.15 the Netherlands forwarded informal document INF.8 on an amendment to the definition of closed vehicle in ADR. During the discussion it was confirmed that the definition could be improved but that the subject should be discussed in the Joint Meeting to also take into account closed wagons.
2. The discussion in particular concerned the interpretation if vehicles with bodies that have rigids front, roof, floor, and rear doors but fabric sides, also known as curtain siders or tautliners, or fabric roofs were to be seen as a closed vehicle or sheeted vehicle.
3. The *UN Model Regulations* in 1.2.1 contains a definition of “closed cargo transport unit”, that would rule out cargo units with fabric sides and tops. The proposed amendment reflected this definition.

* A/78/6 (Sect.20), table 20.5.

** Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2024/14.



4. In paragraph 6 below a comparison of definitions is given between RID and ADR. It should be discussed in the Joint Meeting if it is beneficial to amend the definition of closed wagon in RID along the same line as for ADR.

II. Proposal

5. Amend in 1.2.1 of ADR the definition of closed vehicle to read (new words are underlined, and deleted words are stricken through):

"***Closed vehicle***" means a vehicle having a body which totally encloses the contents by permanent structures with complete and rigid surfaces. A vehicle having a body with fabric sides or top are not considered a closed vehicle ~~capable of being closed.~~"

III. Justification

Comparison of definitions between RID and ADR

6. Below table shows an overview of the definitions of superstructures of wagons and vehicles:

RID 2023	ADR 2023
" <i>Open wagon</i> " means a wagon with or without side boards and a tail board, the loading surfaces of which are open;	" <i>Open vehicle</i> " means a vehicle the platform of which has no superstructure or is merely provided with side boards and a tail board;
" <i>Sheeted wagon</i> " means and <i>open wagon</i> provided with a sheet to protect the load;	" <i>Sheeted vehicle</i> " means an open vehicle provided with a sheet to protect the load;
" <i>Closed wagon</i> " means a <i>wagon</i> with fixed or movable sides or roof;	" <i>Closed vehicle</i> " means a vehicle having a body capable of being closed;
" <i>Open container</i> " means an open top <i>container</i> or a platform based container;	" <i>Open container</i> " means an open top container or a platform based container;
" <i>Sheeted container</i> " means an open top <i>container</i> equipped with a sheet to protect the goods loaded;	" <i>Sheeted container</i> " means an open container equipped with a sheet to protect the goods loaded;
" <i>Closed container</i> " means a totally enclosed <i>container</i> having a rigid roof, rigid side walls, rigid end walls and a floor. The term includes <i>containers</i> with an opening roof where the roof can be closed during transport;	

Designation in (road) vehicle body types

7. Codes for vehicle superstructures can be found in Appendix 2 of Annex 1 of the Regulation (EU) 2018/858 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([EUR-Lex - 32018R0858 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)).

8. In this appendix:

Code "01 Flat bed" is applied for bodies with open load space with no boards;

Code "02 Drop-side" is applied for bodies with open load space with boards;

Code "03 Box body" is applied for bodies, which have all rigid walls;

Code "06 Curtain-sided" is applied for sheeted bodies.

There are no further specific codes for sheeted vehicles.

9. Conclusion is that all vehicles with curtain of fabric sides (and other fabric parts) are not box type bodies and are to be considered as “sheeted”.

Use of closed vehicle in the ADR regulations

10. Closed vehicles are mentioned approximately forty times in ADR 2023. Except for the definitions of 1.2.1 and Chapters 8 and 9, these are mainly in Chapter 4.1 (packing instructions P200/P400) on the carriage of dangerous goods in bags, specific requirements for carriage in packaging in Chapter 7.2, and in bulk in Chapter 7.3 and provisions concerning loading, unloading, and handling in Chapter 7.5. In all these places “closed vehicle” is in combination with container, or in some cases with closed container.

11. Although ADR is not consistent in the use of the wording “closed vehicle or container” and “closed vehicle or closed container”, the intention seems to be identical.

12. Rigid walls will give superior protection over fabric against moist, external hazards and containing the load in the compartment. Based on the definition of closed container the same level of safety can only be achieved by a vehicle with a body with rigid sides and front, rigid floor and roof, and rigid doors.

13. By formulating an unambiguous definition for closed vehicles, the Joint Meeting may help to clarify the provisions and avoid different interpretation among different Contracting Parties/States and inspection services, and thus helps to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions.
