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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions

affecting Transport

(One-hundredth session, 12-15 February 2002,
agenda item 7 (c) (viii))

**CUSTOMS CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF GOODS
UNDER COVER OF TIR CARNETS (TIR CONVENTION 1975)**

The use of TIR Carnets filled-in by hand or by any other means

Note by the UNECE secretariat

BACKGROUND

1. The Working Party, at its ninety-ninth session, was informed by the IRU of difficulties for transport operators using TIR Carnets filled-in by hand.
2. Some delegations informed the Working Party that, according to their national instructions, based on an interpretation of the English version of the Annex I of the TIR Convention (Rules regarding the use of the TIR Carnet, paragraph 10 b), it was not permissible to lodge TIR Carnets filled-in by hand. However, other delegations, reported that, according to the French version of the same Rules, it was allowed to lodge TIR Carnets filled-in by hand as long as the information was clearly legible.

3. The Working Party considered that the wording of paragraph 10 b) of the Rules regarding the use of the TIR Carnet in Annex I of the TIR Convention, was used in the conditional sense of the word “should”. Consequently, the Working Party considered it permissible to lodge TIR Carnets filled-in by hand. Customs authorities, having based their national instructions to the opposite effect were invited to take note of this fact.

4. In order to align any future interpretation of the Rule concerned, regardless of the reference language and regardless of the means by which the TIR Carnet is filled-in, the secretariat proposes to insert a new comment or, if required, possibly a new Explanatory Note 1.10 (b) to Annex 1, Explanatory Note to the model of the TIR Carnet, to read as follows:

“Rules Regarding the Use of the TIR Carnet

Filling-in of a TIR Carnet

No. 10 (b) of the Rules Regarding the Use of the TIR Carnet does not forbid the filling-in of the TIR Carnet by hand or by any other means, as long as the particulars on all sheets are clearly legible.”
