

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**

**(Seventy-second session,  
Geneva, 13-17 May 2002,  
Agenda item 3 (c))**

**MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS**

**Note by the Secretariat**

The representative of Germany has drawn the attention of the secretariat to the fact that many multilateral agreements refer to the marginal numbers of the 1999 version of ADR, and cannot easily be used in connection with the restructured ADR. Many of these were expected to remain valid after 1 January 2003, but it is not clear whether they are still legally valid since the entry into force of the restructured ADR, despite the transitional measures according to which the 1999 version may continue to be applied until 31 December 2002. In any case, there will be undoubtedly a legal problem after 1 January 2003, and in addition the resulting situation is far from being user-friendly for consignors, carriers and control authorities.

After consultation of the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the Working Party, the secretariat proposes the following solution to overcome the problem:

1. Initiators of multilateral agreements referring to marginals of the "old" ADR which have not yet expired by 30 June 2002 should check the agreements concerned (see list overleaf), replace the references to the marginal numbers by the appropriate references to the paragraph numbers of the restructured ADR (without any other change) and send the corrected version to the secretariat by 15 June 2002.
2. The secretariat would then circulate a compendium of corrected agreements to all Contracting Parties in accordance with the UN legal procedure for corrections, and if there is no objection from any signatories State after a period of three months, the corrections would be deemed accepted and the corrected texts would be included in the UNECE web site.

In addition, the secretariat would like to invite the initiators of all multilateral agreements in force to check whether these agreements will remain valid after 1 January 2003 when the 2003 amendments enter into force, and to inform the secretariat if some of these agreements may be deemed as superfluous due to the entry into force of the new amendments.

<b>INITIATING COUNTRY</b>	<b>MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS</b>
Austria	M60, M83, M103, M104
Belgium	M82, M102, M113, M115, M116
France	M69, M76, M77, M78, M80, M105, M106
Germany	M61, M62, M63, M65, M66, M71, M79, M88, M92, M97, M101, M108, M109, M110, M112, M117
Norway	M84, M85, M86, M93, M100
Portugal	M111
Sweden	M94, M98
Switzerland	M107
United Kingdom	M64, M74, M90, M95, M96, M99

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