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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Bern, 7-11 March 2005)

NEW PROPOSALS OF AMENDMENTS TO RID/ADR/ADN

Chapter 1.6: transitional measures

Transmitted by the International Union of Railways (UIC/IUR) */

As from 1 January 2005, the use of old danger labels will be allowed, according to 1.6.1.2, only when such "old" labels conform to the requirements applicable until 31 December 2004 (instead of 31 December 1998). This amendment was related to the new provision for the exclusive use of the English language for the inscriptions on the labels for Class 7 material.

Explanations of this decision in the reports of the RID Commission of Experts and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods WP.15 are different:

Paragraph 62 of the report on the 40th session of the RID Committee of Experts reads:

"On a proposal by the representative of the Czech Republic, the RID Committee of Experts decided to provide a transitional provision for the amendment to 5.2.2.2.2. However, it was agreed simply to amend the existing transitional provision in 1.6.1.2 and to replace "31 December 1998" with "31 December 2004". This implied that all the old danger labels could be used until supplies ran out, irrespective of the expiry date."

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Paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report on the 75th session of the WP15 (TRANS/WP.15/176) read:

“The Working Party adopted the amendment proposed by the RID Committee of Experts in 1.6.1.2 pointing out that it was tantamount to introducing a transitional measure for labels of class 7 bearing a text in a language other than English, but it was also tantamount to no longer authorizing labels which did not carry a figure in the lower corner.....It was pointed out that 1.6.1.2 concerned danger labels and not placards, but that whatever the interpretation of the existing 1.6.1.2, all vehicle placards would from now on have to carry a figure in the lower corner.”

For the UIC/IUR, it is obvious that the decision of the RID Experts is fundamentally different from the decision of WP.15. This difference is not clear for the user from the text of subsection 1.6.1.2.

Because this is an issue for all modes of inland transport, the UIC/IUR invites the Joint Meeting to discuss the following items:

1) Is the new subsection 1.6.1.2 applicable to danger labels only, or is it applicable to placards as well? If it is also applicable to placards, the UIC/IUR proposes to insert in the first line of 1.6.1.2, after "The danger labels": "and placards".

2) Is the Joint Meeting of the same opinion as the WP15, in so far that labels and placards carrying no figure in the lower corner are no longer authorized?

If this is the case, the UIC/IUR proposes to add the following note to the text of 1.6.1.2:

"Labels and placards in accordance with the RID/ADR applicable up to 31 December 1998, carrying no figure in the lower corner are, however, no longer authorized."
