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## 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

Geneva, 13–17 September 2010

Item 5 a) of the provisional agenda

**Proposals for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN–Pending issues**

### **Soils and construction and demolition waste contaminated with PCBs**

**Transmitted by the Government of Belgium<sup>1,2</sup>**

#### **Introduction**

1. During the Joint Meeting of March 2010, document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2009/29 was discussed. The meeting did not accept the proposal to delete special provision VV15 for UN Nos. 2315 and 3151, as those UN numbers were applicable to solid wastes contaminated with polychlorinated or polyhalogenated biphenyls and terphenyls, liquid, capable of being carried in bulk. The first paragraph of special provision VV15 was, however, amended to indicate that it was applicable to solids only:

“Carriage in bulk is permitted in closed wagons, movable-roof wagons, sheeted wagons/closed or sheeted vehicles, closed containers or sheeted large containers <(ADR only:) with complete walls> for solids (substances or mixtures, such as preparations or wastes) containing not more than 1000 mg/kg of substance to which this UN No is assigned.”.

2. The Joint Meeting did not accept the proposal to amend the concentration of 1,000 ppm, to bring it to 5 %, as that concentration corresponded with the one set out in the

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2006-2010 (ECE/TRANS/166/Add.1, programme activity 02.7 (c)).

<sup>2</sup> Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2010/44.

regulations on the management of dangerous waste. However, it noted that it was difficult to precisely determine the actual concentration in the load, as biphenyls were not distributed evenly in the transported waste. The representative of Belgium said that he would prepare a proposal to deal with that question.

3. Special provision VV15 has been introduced to deal with the problem of removing fairly large quantities of soil, contaminated with polychlorinated or polyhalogenated biphenyls and terphenyls (mainly due to leakage from electrical equipment). In such a situation, the concentration of the contamination will be very low, when calculated on the total quantity of soil to be removed, but it will be much higher in the soil underneath the source of the contamination. A sample, taken at random to determine the concentration of the contamination and coming from underneath the source of that contamination, may therefore distort the result sufficiently to prohibit the application of VV15 without any real safety reason.

## Proposal

4. Amend the first paragraph of special provision VV15 as follows:

“Carriage in bulk is permitted in closed wagons, movable-roof wagons, sheeted wagons/closed or sheeted vehicles, closed containers or sheeted large containers <(ADR only:) with complete walls> for solids (substances or mixtures, such as preparations or wastes) containing *on an average* not more than 1000 mg/kg of substance to which this UN No is assigned. *Nowhere in the solids, the concentration of this substance or these substances may be higher than 5 %.*”.

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