

## 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, 15–19 September 2014

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Proposals for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN:  
pending issues**

15 September 2014

### Approval of packagings for the carriage of infectious substances

#### Transmitted by the Government of Switzerland

##### *Summary*

**Executive summary:** The current regulation requires approved packagings for UN 3291 (category B) only. Approved packagings are not required for UN 3373 (category B as well) and for category A substances. In our opinion, these differences are difficult to justify.

**Action to be taken:** It should be discussed and decided which infectious substances have to be carried in approved packagings.

### Introduction

1. In document INF. 33, Switzerland gives answers to the questions raised by document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2014/28. The text of INF. 33 was presented and discussed during the Informal working group on carriage of live animals (Berlin, 16 and 17 June 2014). The report of this working group (see INF. 15) mentions that *The delegations took note of the proposal by Switzerland on the approval of packagings for infectious substances in document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2014/28/Rev. After the discussion, it was noted that the text proposed by Switzerland is in accordance with the UN Model Regulations and that the proposal could be supported.*
2. Adopting the proposal made in INF. 33 would align the text in RID/ADR to the UN Model Regulations. But the fundamental problem still needs to be solved: UN 3291 substances need to be packed in approved packagings, while UN 3373 substances (according to par. (11) in P650) and the more dangerous substances of category A substances (according to 4.1.8.2) not.
3. In view of the different opinions expressed during the last Joint meeting as well in the working group of Berlin on carriage of live animals, we believe that the following question should be answered by the Joint Meeting, before proposing detailed amendments.

Which infectious substances should be transported in approved packagings according to 4.1.1.3?

- a. All
  - b. Category A and UN 3291 only
  - c. Category A only
  - d. UN 3291 only (current regulation)
  - e. other
4. In our opinion, option c. would make sense. The more dangerous substances of category A should be carried in approved packagings. The less dangerous substances of category B UN 3291 and UN 3373 present similar risks and should both be carried in packagings which do not need to be approved. If some delegations choose another option, we would be interested in hearing the reasons justifying their choice.
  5. Based on the answers given during this meeting, we will consider submitting a formal proposal at a next session.
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