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**Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods  
and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification  
and Labelling of Chemicals**

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**

**Forty-ninth session**

Geneva, 27 June – 6 July 2016

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Global harmonization of transport of dangerous goods regulations   
with the Model Regulations**

Distinguishing sign for motor vehicles  
Editorial corrections

Note by the secretariat [[1]](#footnote-2)

1. The secretariat has been made aware of some inconsistencies in the French text of the Model Regulations in relation to the translation of the term “distinguishing sign for motor vehicles in international traffic” and the related reference to the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic (when mentioned) which appear in several paragraphs: 4.1.4.1 P101, 6.1.3.1 (f), 6.1.3.8 (h), 6.2.2.7.2 (c), 6.2.2.7.4 (n), 6.2.2.7.7 (a), 6.2.2.9.2 (c) and (h), 6.2.2.9.4 (a), 6.3.4.2 (e), 6.4.23.11 (a), 6.5.2.1.1 (e), 6.6.3.1 (e), 6.7.2.18.1, 6.7.3.14.1, 6.7.4.13.1 and 6.7.5.11.1.

2. The secretariat agrees that the inconsistencies in the French text should be corrected, but notes that the English text is not entirely correct and should also be revised for the following reasons:

(a) The sign is required for motor vehicles but also for trailers;

(b) Not all countries are Contracting Parties to the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic (1968);

(c) The sign is also required by the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic to which some countries which are not parties to the 1968 Convention are parties;

(d) Although many countries are parties to either the 1949 Convention or the 1968 Convention, some countries in the world are not signatories or parties to any of them.

3. The secretariat reproduces in the annex to this document the list of signs notified to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in relation to international road traffic.

4. As the issue concerned also RID, ADR and ADN, where all references to this term are accompanied by a footnote referring to the 1968 Convention, the secretariat submitted a proposal to the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting in order to rationalize the use of this term in a consistent manner.

5. The proposal was to replace the current text by the following: “the distinguishing sign used on vehicles in international road traffic\*”, with a footnote reading as follows:

“\* Distinguishing sign of the State of registration used on motor vehicles and trailers in international road traffic, e.g. in accordance with the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic of 1949 or the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic of 1968”.

6. For the French text, the proposal was to use the term: “le signe distinctif utilisé sur les véhicules en circulation routière internationale\*” with a footnote reading as follows:

Signe distinctif de l’Etat d’immatriculation utilisé sur les automobiles et les remorques en circulation routière internationale, par exemple en vertu de la Convention de Genève sur la circulation routière de 1949 ou de la Convention de Vienne sur la circulation routière de 1968.”.

7. This proposal was adopted by the Joint Meeting, and therefore this wording will be used in RID, ADR and ADN as from 1 January 2017.

8. The Sub-Committee is invited to consider introducing the same amendments in the Model Regulations, i.e. wherever reference is made to the “distinguished sign for motor vehicles in international traffic”, it should be replaced by the text and footnote mentioned in paragraph 5 above.

9. Information on the 1949 and 1968 conventions (text and status) may be found on the UNECE website at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=26749>. Refer to Article 20 and annex 4 for the 1949 Convention and Article 37 and annex 3 for the 1968 Convention.

Annex (English only)

**DISTINGUISHING SIGNS used on VEHICLES IN INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC**

NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1968 CONVENTION ON ROAD TRAFFIC (ARTICLE 45 (4)) 1/

AND THE 1949 CONVENTION ON ROAD TRAFFIC (ANNEX 4) 2/

*Status as at 9 March 2016*

| **Contracting Parties** | **Distinguishing sign** |
| --- | --- |
| Albania | **AL** |
| Algeria | **DZ** |
| Andorra | **AND** |
| Argentina | **RA** |
| Armenia | **AM** |
| Australia | **AUS** |
| Austria | **A** |
| Azerbaijan | **AZ** |
| Bahamas | **BS** |
| Bahrain | **BRN** |
| Bangladesh | **BD** |
| Barbados | **BDS** |
| Belarus | **BY** |
| Belgium | **B** |
| Belize (former British Honduras) | **BH 3/** |
| Benin | **DY** |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | **BIH** |
| Botswana | **BW** |
| Brazil | **BR** |
| Brunei Darussalam | **BRU** |
| Bulgaria | **BG** |
| Burkina Faso | **BF 4/** |
| Cambodia | **K** |
| Canada | **CDN** |
| Central African Republic | **RCA** |
| Chile | **RCH** |
| China (Republic of) | **RC 5/** |
| Congo | **RCB** |
| Costa Rica | **CR** |
| Côte d’Ivoire | **CI** |
| Croatia | **HR** |
| Cuba | **CU 4/** |
| Cyprus | **CY** |
| Czech Republic | **CZ** |
| Denmark | **DK** |
| Faroe Islands | **FR** |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | **ZRE** |
| Dominican Republic | **DOM** |
| Ecuador | **EC** |
| Egypt | **ET** |
| Estonia | **EST** |
| Fiji | **FJI** |
| Finland | **FIN** |
| France | **F** |
| Gambia | **WAG** |
| Georgia | **GE** |
| Germany | **D** |
| Ghana | **GH** |
| Greece | **GR** |
| Grenada (Windward Islands) | **WG** |
| Guatemala | **GCA** |
| Guyana | **GUY** |
| Haiti | **RH** |
| Holy See | **V** |
| Hungary | **H** |
| Iceland | **IS** |
| India | **IND** |
| Indonesia | **RI** |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | **IR** |
| Ireland | **IRL** |
| Israel | **IL** |
| Italy | **I** |
| Jamaica | **JA** |
| Japan | **J** |
| Jordan | **HKJ** |
| Kazakhstan | **KZ** |
| Kenya | **EAK** |
| Kuwait | **KWT** |
| Kyrgyzstan | **KS** |
| Lao People’s Democratic Republic | **LAO** |
| Latvia | **LV** |
| Lebanon | **RL** |
| Lesotho | **LS** |
| Liberia | **LB** |
| Lithuania | **LT** |
| Luxembourg | **L** |
| Madagascar | **RM** |
| Malawi | **MW** |
| Malaysia | **MAL** |
| Mali | **RMM** |
| Malta | **M** |
| Mauritius | **MS** |
| Mexico | **MEX** |
| Moldova | **MD 4/** |
| Monaco | **MC** |
| Mongolia | **MGL** |
| Montenegro | **MNE 4/** |
| Morocco | **MA** |
| Myanmar | **BUR** |
| Namibia | **NAM** |
| Netherlands | **NL** |
| Netherlands Antilles | **NA** |
| New Zealand | **NZ** |
| Nicaragua | **NIC** |
| Niger | **RN** |
| Nigeria | **WAN** |
| Norway | **N** |
| Pakistan | **PK** |
| Papua New Guinea | **PNG** |
| Paraguay | **PY** |
| Peru | **PE** |
| Philippines | **RP** |
| Poland | **PL** |
| Portugal | **P** |
| Qatar | **Q 4/** |
| Republic of Korea | **ROK** |
| Romania | **RO** |
| Russian Federation | **RUS** |
| Rwanda | **RWA** |
| Samoa | **WS** |
| San Marino | **RSM** |
| Senegal | **SN** |
| Serbia | **SRB** 4/ |
| Seychelles | **SY** |
| Sierra Leone | **WAL** |
| Singapore | **SGP** |
| Slovakia | **SK** |
| Slovenia | **SLO** |
| South Africa | **ZA** |
| Spain (including African localities and provinces) | **E** |
| Sri Lanka | **CL** |
| St Lucia (Windward Islands) | **WL** |
| St Vincent and the Grenadines (Windward Islands) | **WV** |
| Surinam | **SME** |
| Swaziland | **SD** |
| Sweden | **S** |
| Switzerland | **CH** |
| Syrian Arab Republic | **SYR** |
| Tajikistan | **TJ** |
| Thailand | **T** |
| The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | **MK** |
| Togo | **TG** |
| Trinidad and Tobago | **TT** |
| Tunisia | **TN** |
| Turkey | **TR** |
| Turkmenistan | **TM** |
| Uganda | **EAU** |
| Ukraine | **UA** |
| United Arab Emirates | **UAE 4/** |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | **GB** |
| Alderney | **GBA** |
| Guernsey | **GBG** |
| Gibraltar | **GBZ** |
| Isle of Man | **GBM** |
| Jersey | **GBJ** |
| United Republic of Tanzania |  |
| Tanganyika | **EAT** |
| Zanzibar | **EAZ** |
| United States of America | **USA** |
| Uruguay | **ROU** |
| Uzbekistan | **UZ** |
| Venezuela | **YV** |
| Viet Nam | **VN** |
| Zambia | **RNR** |
| Zimbabwe | **ZW** |

1/ Distinguishing signs may be found directly in the text of the Convention via Internet: http://untreaty.un.org/ENGLISH/bible/englishinternetbible/partI/chapterXI/subchapB/treaty136.asp

2/ Distinguishing signs may be found directly in the text of the Convention via Internet: http://untreaty.un.org/ENGLISH/bible/englishinternetbible/partI/chapterXI/subchapB/treaty1.asp

3/ After independence the change of the name of the State not notified in the Convention(s).

4/ The distinguishing sign was not notified to the UN Secretary-General.

5/ Accession on behalf of the Republic of China on 27 June 1957. See also note on behalf of the People’s Republic of China (under "Historical Information" in United Nations Treaties: Chapter XI Transport and Communication) at the following web site: http://untreaty.un.org/ENGLISH/bible/englishinternetbible/historicalinfo.asp.

**OTHER DISTINGUISHING SIGNS used BY UN MEMBER STATES, NOT**

**CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE 1968 CONVENTION ON ROAD**

**TRAFFIC AND/OR THE 1949 CONVENTION ON ROAD TRAFFIC \***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - Afghanistan AFG  - Bolivia BOL  - Burundi RU  - Cameroon CAM  - Chad TCH/TD  - Colombia CO  - Dominica (Windward Islands) WD  - El Salvador ES  - Eritrea ER  - Ethiopia ETH  - Gabon G  - Guinea RG  - Iraq IRQ  - Libyan Arab Jamahiriya LAR | - Liechtenstein FL  - Mauritania RIM  - Mozambique MOC  - Nauru NAU  - Nepal NEP  - Panama PA  - Saudi Arabia SA  - Somalia SO  - Sudan SUD  - Virgin Islands BVI  - Yemen Arab Republic YAR |

1. In accordance with the programme of work of the Sub-Committee for 2015–2016 approved by the Committee at its seventh session (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/92, paragraph 95 and ST/SG/AC.10/42, para. 15). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)