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Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Proposals for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN:
new proposals**

Indication of year stated on instructions in writing

**Submitted by the International Association of Dangerous Goods Safety
Advisers (IASA)*, ****

Summary

Executive summary: According to RID/ADR/ADN 5.4.3 the crew is obliged to carry instructions in writing, which can be used as an aid during an accident or emergency situation. With new versions of RID/ADR/ADN published every biennium, the instructions in writing sometimes undergo changes.

RID/ADR/ADN states that the instructions in writing shall correspond to the form and contents as shown in RID/ADR/ADN but they do not indicate any year(s), so it is not allowed to add any indication of the year(s) in which the instructions were published.

Interpretation by the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) ([ECE/TRANS/WP.15/201](#), paragraph 20): “*The Working Party confirmed that 5.4.3.4 of ADR, as currently worded, did not allow for the addition of extra information or a logotype on the instructions in writing.*”

The aim of this proposal is to ensure that the year(s) in which the instructions in writing were published are indicated in the instructions in writing, so that it is easier for carriers to make sure that members of the vehicle crew are always equipped with the correct versions.

* A/77/6 (Sect.20), para. 20.76

** Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2023/5.



Action to be taken: Amend the instructions in writing. Alternatively, amend RID/ADR/ADN 5.4.3.4.

Introduction

1. In RID/ADR/ADN 2023, as well as in previous versions, 5.4.3 deals with the instructions in writing. Sometimes, changes are made to the instructions in writing when a new version of RID/ADR/ADN is published; sometimes, they stay the same for several years.
2. The current instructions in writing have not changed since RID/ADR/ADN 2017, and the change in RID/ADR/ADN 2017 was rather subtle, with the requirement to display danger label 9A and small changes to the text. Even though carriers and members of the crew are very careful when ensuring that they have the latest instructions in writing on board, the difference may be hard to spot, sometimes resulting in the wrong versions being carried with them, thus resulting in incomplete information.
3. Some drivers and/or hauliers have stated the relevant year(s) on their instructions in writing, but this is prohibited according to the interpretation given by WP.15 and the present wording.
4. The full text of ADR/ADN 5.4.3.4 reads:
“5.4.3.4 The instructions in writing shall correspond to the following four pages model as regards its form and contents.”
5. The full text of RID 5.4.3.4 reads:
“5.4.3.4 The instructions in writing should correspond to the following four pages model as regards its form and contents.”
6. It would be desirable to have the relevant year(s) stated on the instructions in writing to eliminate any doubt about their correctness at any time, but as the year is not stated on the instructions in writing in RID/ADR/ADN, according to ADR/ADN 5.4.3.4 it is not allowed to add the relevant year. For RID, it is a matter of interpretation as to whether the year of publication can be added.

Proposal

7. Amend RID/ADR/ADN 5.4.3.4 to read as follows (new text is underlined):
“5.4.3.4 The instructions in writing (RID:) should / (ADR/ADN:) shall correspond to the following four pages model as regards its form and contents.
Each page of the instructions in writing may indicate the relevant year of publication.”

Justification

8. To help ensure that it will be easier for members of the crew and carriers to decide whether their instructions in writing are the correct versions, therefore improving overall safety by always having the latest versions of the instructions at hand.
9. Even when being very thorough, it is possible to miss the sometimes minor changes from one version to another.
10. Indicating the relevant year on the instructions in writing will not interfere with the important content set out on the four pages.
11. The proposed amendments would therefore result in improved transparency and simplified legislation without reducing safety.