

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

4 May 2012

Ninety-second session

Geneva, 8–10 May 2012

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Interpretation of ADR

Period of validity of multilateral or bilateral agreements

Transmitted by the Chairman

In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 3 of ADR, the Contracting Parties may agree among themselves conditions less stringent than those laid down in the Annexes, using special agreements, applicable to certain transport operations in their territories.

Paragraph 1.5.1.2 establishes that the period of validity of the temporary derogation shall not be more than five years from the date of its entry into force.

Nevertheless, there are at least three special agreements in the website of the UNECE Secretariat which period of validity is not limited:

- M85, signed by Norway, Denmark and Sweden, concerning the use of the Scandinavian languages in transport documents;
- M178, signed by Portugal and Spain, concerning the use of Portuguese or Spanish languages in transport documents;
- B3582, signed by the Netherlands and Belgium, concerning the use of Dutch language in transport documents.

These three agreements are “valid until revoked by one of the contracting parties”.

Since the question of the use of some national languages in transport documents is not in fact a “temporary” situation, it seems that there are no difficulties in this solution.
