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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**

Bern, 18–22 March 2013

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Standards**Status of standards referenced in RID/ADR/ADN and of the
standards referenced within those standards – section 1.1.5****Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom^{1, 2}****Introduction**

1. The status of standards referenced in the regulations was clarified in the 2013 edition of RID/ADR/ADN at section 1.1.5. This followed the equivalent change in the seventeenth Revised Edition of the United Nations Model Regulations at section 1.1.1.7. However, further questions have been raised about how standards shall be applied. In particular, regulators have been asked if the standards that are referenced within a standard (the normative references) need to be followed or if alternative standards or specifications can be used instead. The United Kingdom provided informal paper INF. 19 for the forty-second session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. However, it was not discussed due to shortage of time. This paper is very close to this informal document INF.19 but the proposed amendment relates specifically to RID/ADR/ADN rather than to the Model Regulations.

2. To the representative of the United Kingdom it seems logical that the standards referenced are part of the regulations and, with the exception of conflicting requirements described in 1.1.5, shall be applied with the same rigour. Also, it must be realised that when standards are written, they are constructed to create a safe piece of equipment or to

¹ In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2010-2014 (ECE/TRANS/208, para.106, ECE/TRANS/2010/8, programme activity 02.7(c)).

² Circulated by the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) under the symbol OTIF/RID/RC/2013/18.

give a safe method of work. It would be potentially unsafe to vary requirements. Standards are based on research and operational experience and are a consensus of experts. The thinking and experience behind the requirements in standards are not explained so the reader does not have the information to make a safe judgement when following alternative solutions.

3. Therefore, it is necessary to state in RID/ADR/ADN that the standard shall be applied as written and that alternative solutions are not permitted unless the text clearly provides for this.

Proposal

4. Amend section 1.1.5 by adding the sentence shown underlined.

1.1.5 Application of standards

Where the application of a standard is required and there is any conflict between the standard and the provisions of RID/ADR/ADN, the provisions of RID/ADR/ADN take precedence. The requirements of the standard that do not conflict with RID/ADR/ADN shall be applied as specified, including the requirements of any other standard, or part of a standard, referenced within that standard. Alternative requirements shall only be recognised where this is explicitly allowed by RID/ADR/ADN.
