

## **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**

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**Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda**

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

### **Distinguishing sign for motor vehicles Editorial corrections**

#### **Transmitted by the Secretariat**

1. The secretariat has been made aware of some inconsistencies in the French text of RID/ADR in relation to the translation of the term “distinguishing sign for motor vehicles in international traffic” and the related footnote which appear in several paragraphs of RID and ADR: 1.8.3.18, 4.1.4.1 P101 (ADR only), 5.4.1.2.1 Note 2, 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), 6.5.2.1.1 (e), 6.6.3.1 (e), 6.7.2.18.1, 6.7.3.14.1, 6.7.4.13.1, 6.7.5.11.1 and 6.8.2.3.1.

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 Contracting Parties to RID and ADR are Contracting Parties to the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic (1968) (e.g. Iceland, Spain and United Kingdom);
- (c) The sign is also required by the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic to which some RID or ADR Contracting Parties are Contracting Parties (e.g. United Kingdom, Iceland and Spain);
- (d) Although all Contracting Parties to RID and ADR 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, e.g. Saudi Arabia.

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

4. To take account of the above, the secretariat proposes that the current text be replaced by the following: “the distinguishing sign used on vehicles in international road traffic\*”.

Footnote \* would read “\* 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”.

The French text would read as follows: “le signe distinctif utilisé sur les véhicules en circulation routière internationale\*”.

Footnote \* would read “\* 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.”.

5. 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.

6. The secretariat intends to submit a similar proposal to the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods at its next session.

## Annex

### 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))<sup>1/</sup>  
AND THE 1949 CONVENTION ON ROAD TRAFFIC (ANNEX 4)<sup>2/</sup>

*Status as at 9 March 2016*

Contracting Parties	Distinguishing sign
Albania	<b>AL</b>
Algeria	<b>DZ</b>
Andorra	<b>AND</b>
Argentina	<b>RA</b>
Armenia	<b>AM</b>
Australia	<b>AUS</b>
Austria	<b>A</b>
Azerbaijan	<b>AZ</b>
Bahamas	<b>BS</b>
Bahrain	<b>BRN</b>
Bangladesh	<b>BD</b>
Barbados	<b>BDS</b>
Belarus	<b>BY</b>
Belgium	<b>B</b>
Belize (former British Honduras)	<b>BH</b> <sup>3/</sup>
Benin	<b>DY</b>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<b>BIH</b>
Botswana	<b>BW</b>
Brazil	<b>BR</b>
Brunei Darussalam	<b>BRU</b>
Bulgaria	<b>BG</b>
Burkina Faso	<b>BF</b> <sup>4/</sup>
Cambodia	<b>K</b>
Canada	<b>CDN</b>
Central African Republic	<b>RCA</b>
Chile	<b>RCH</b>
China (Republic of)	<b>RC</b> <sup>5/</sup>
Congo	<b>RCB</b>
Costa Rica	<b>CR</b>
Côte d'Ivoire	<b>CI</b>
Croatia	<b>HR</b>
Cuba	<b>CU</b> <sup>4/</sup>
Cyprus	<b>CY</b>
Czech Republic	<b>CZ</b>
Denmark	<b>DK</b>
Faroe Islands	<b>FR</b>
Democratic Republic of the Congo	<b>ZRE</b>
Dominican Republic	<b>DOM</b>

<b>Contracting Parties</b>	<b>Distinguishing sign</b>
Ecuador	<b>EC</b>
Egypt	<b>ET</b>
Estonia	<b>EST</b>
Fiji	<b>FJI</b>
Finland	<b>FIN</b>
France	<b>F</b>
Gambia	<b>WAG</b>
Georgia	<b>GE</b>
Germany	<b>D</b>
Ghana	<b>GH</b>
Greece	<b>GR</b>
Grenada (Windward Islands)	<b>WG</b>
Guatemala	<b>GCA</b>
Guyana	<b>GUY</b>
Haiti	<b>RH</b>
Holy See	<b>V</b>
Hungary	<b>H</b>
Iceland	<b>IS</b>
India	<b>IND</b>
Indonesia	<b>RI</b>
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	<b>IR</b>
Ireland	<b>IRL</b>
Israel	<b>IL</b>
Italy	<b>I</b>
Jamaica	<b>JA</b>
Japan	<b>J</b>
Jordan	<b>HKJ</b>
Kazakhstan	<b>KZ</b>
Kenya	<b>EAK</b>
Kuwait	<b>KWT</b>
Kyrgyzstan	<b>KS</b>
Lao People's Democratic Republic	<b>LAO</b>
Latvia	<b>LV</b>
Lebanon	<b>RL</b>
Lesotho	<b>LS</b>
Liberia	<b>LB</b>
Lithuania	<b>LT</b>
Luxembourg	<b>L</b>
Madagascar	<b>RM</b>
Malawi	<b>MW</b>
Malaysia	<b>MAL</b>
Mali	<b>RMM</b>
Malta	<b>M</b>
Mauritius	<b>MS</b>
Mexico	<b>MEX</b>

<b>Contracting Parties</b>	<b>Distinguishing sign</b>
Moldova	<b>MD</b> <sup>4/</sup>
Monaco	<b>MC</b>
Mongolia	<b>MGL</b>
Montenegro	<b>MNE</b> <sup>4/</sup>
Morocco	<b>MA</b>
Myanmar	<b>BUR</b>
Namibia	<b>NAM</b>
Netherlands	<b>NL</b>
Netherlands Antilles	<b>NA</b>
New Zealand	<b>NZ</b>
Nicaragua	<b>NIC</b>
Niger	<b>RN</b>
Nigeria	<b>WAN</b>
Norway	<b>N</b>
Pakistan	<b>PK</b>
Papua New Guinea	<b>PNG</b>
Paraguay	<b>PY</b>
Peru	<b>PE</b>
Philippines	<b>RP</b>
Poland	<b>PL</b>
Portugal	<b>P</b>
Qatar	<b>Q</b> <sup>4/</sup>
Republic of Korea	<b>ROK</b>
Romania	<b>RO</b>
Russian Federation	<b>RUS</b>
Rwanda	<b>RWA</b>
Samoa	<b>WS</b>
San Marino	<b>RSM</b>
Senegal	<b>SN</b>
Serbia	<b>SRB</b> <sup>4/</sup>
Seychelles	<b>SY</b>
Sierra Leone	<b>WAL</b>
Singapore	<b>SGP</b>
Slovakia	<b>SK</b>
Slovenia	<b>SLO</b>
South Africa	<b>ZA</b>
Spain (including African localities and provinces)	<b>E</b>
Sri Lanka	<b>CL</b>
St Lucia (Windward Islands)	<b>WL</b>
St Vincent and the Grenadines (Windward Islands)	<b>WV</b>
Surinam	<b>SME</b>
Swaziland	<b>SD</b>
Sweden	<b>S</b>
Switzerland	<b>CH</b>
Syrian Arab Republic	<b>SYR</b>

<b>Contracting Parties</b>	<b>Distinguishing sign</b>
Tajikistan	<b>TJ</b>
Thailand	<b>T</b>
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<b>MK</b>
Togo	<b>TG</b>
Trinidad and Tobago	<b>TT</b>
Tunisia	<b>TN</b>
Turkey	<b>TR</b>
Turkmenistan	<b>TM</b>
Uganda	<b>EAU</b>
Ukraine	<b>UA</b>
United Arab Emirates	<b>UAE</b> <sup>4/</sup>
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	<b>GB</b>
Alderney	<b>GBA</b>
Guernsey	<b>GBG</b>
Gibraltar	<b>GBZ</b>
Isle of Man	<b>GBM</b>
Jersey	<b>GBJ</b>
United Republic of Tanzania	
Tanganyika	<b>EAT</b>
Zanzibar	<b>EAZ</b>
United States of America	<b>USA</b>
Uruguay	<b>ROU</b>
Uzbekistan	<b>UZ</b>
Venezuela	<b>YV</b>
Viet Nam	<b>VN</b>
Zambia	<b>RNR</b>
Zimbabwe	<b>ZW</b>

<sup>1/</sup> 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>

<sup>2/</sup> 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>

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

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

<sup>5/</sup> 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	- Liechtenstein .....	FL
- Bolivia .....	BOL	- Mauritania .....	RIM
- Burundi .....	RU	- Mozambique.....	MOC
- Cameroon .....	CAM	- Nauru .....	NAU
- Chad .....	TCH/TD	- Nepal .....	NEP
- Colombia .....	CO	- Panama .....	PA
- Dominica (Windward Islands).....	WD	- Saudi Arabia .....	SA
- El Salvador .....	ES	- Somalia .....	SO
- Eritrea .....	ER	- Sudan .....	SUD
- Ethiopia .....	ETH	- Virgin Islands .....	BVI
- Gabon.....	G	- Yemen Arab Republic .....	YAR
- Guinea .....	RG		
- Iraq .....	IRQ		
- Libyan Arab Jamahiriya .....	LAR		