

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

20 March 2025

Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Bern, 24-28 March 2025

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Reports of informal working groups

Report from the informal working group on references to the competent authority

Transmitted by the Government of Switzerland

I. Introduction

1. Since September 2024, the informal working group (IWG) on references to the competent authority held five virtual meetings with Ms. Valérie Blanchard (Switzerland) as Chair and Mr. David Pope (United Kingdom) as Vice-Chair.
2. Members from the following countries and organizations participated in one or more meetings: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, European Union Agency for Railways (ERA), Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), Transport Community, European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), International Road Union (IRU) and International Union of Wagon Keepers (UIP).
3. The IWG completed the review of the references to the competent authority in Parts 1, 2, 3, 5 of RID/ADR/ADN and in Parts 4, 6, 7 of RID/ADR, with the exception of 6.2.2.5 and 6.2.2.6, which were not applied in the RID/ADR/ADN area. However, several provisions could not be clarified with certainty and were left open for further consideration.
4. As announced in September 2024, Chapters 1.5, 1.6, 1.8, 1.15, 1.16 and Parts 7 to 9 of ADN had not been reviewed by the IWG because the references in these chapters were specific to ADN. The IWG considered that this would be best done separately by the ADN experts at the level of the ADN Safety Committee.

II. Results

5. The updated list of references is provided in informal document INF.35. The column "Comment" indicates how each reference to the competent authority should be understood. Provisions which could not yet be clarified have been left pending with the indication "To be checked".
6. The IWG recommends that RID/ADR/ADN be amended to reflect these interpretations. This will allow uniform implementation of the provisions.
7. Many of the provisions relating to the competent authority come from the UN Model Regulations. The IWG therefore recommends that the proposals for amendment should first be submitted to the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and that RID/ADR/ADN should subsequently be amended. This means that no amendments could be introduced into RID/ADR/ADN 2027.
8. The references in Chapters 6.1 to 6.6 of RID/ADR on packagings (and to a lesser extent in Chapter 6.7 on portable tanks) were difficult to analyse. The Group believes that there are different practices in the various countries, which could make the debate in the UN Sub-Committee particularly challenging. Nevertheless, the Group believes that clarification should be sought at this level.

9. Detailed information on the work of the IWG can be found in the minutes of the meetings on the UNECE wiki website (<https://wiki.unece.org/display/transdg/Reports>).

III. Proposed next steps

10. The Joint Meeting is invited to consider the proposed following actions and timeframe.

(a) Review of pending issues and global check at national level

11. The IWG agreed that its members would review all pending references internally in their country. They would involve other experts as necessary. Members would also check the list of references as a whole and identify any inconsistencies.

Timeframe: End of August 2025.

(b) Final review by the IWG

12. The IWG will proceed with the final review of the list of references. The next meeting will take place in September or October 2025.

Timeframe: End of 2025.

(c) Proposal to the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

13. The group will prepare a proposal for amendments to the UN Model Regulations, which could be submitted by a delegation to the Sub-Committee of Experts for its June 2026 session.

Timeframe: April 2026.

(d) Additional work by the ADN Safety Committee

14. The ADN Safety Committee will be kept regularly informed of the progress of the IWG's work so that it can decide when and how to start reviewing the ADN texts (chapters 1.5, 1.6, 1.8, 1.15, 1.16 and Parts 7 to 9). This could be done based on a proposal from a delegation to set up an informal group. Currently, the Swiss delegation is not in a position to lead the work at the ADN level but is confident that another delegation will be able to do so.
