Important announcement

Following the postponement of the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting from March to September 2020 due to COVID-19, the situation and circumstances in terms of organising an official session have improved partially and locally.

In consultation with the chairs, the secretariats considered various options to make progress on the proposals that were initially submitted for the March session and subsequently for the September session.

With reference to the provisional agenda RID-20011-RC (available at: http://otif.org/fileadmin/new/2-Activities/2D-Dangerous-Goods/2Da_Jointmeeting/RID-20011-RC_e_invitation.pdf), the secretariats finally decided to organise the forthcoming sessions of the RID/ADR/ADN Joint-Meeting as follows:

Part A: The sessions (initially planned to take place in Bern) will be held remotely only, with interpretation into English, French, Russian and German through the use of the interpretation platform “Interprefy” (for both morning and afternoon sessions).

Part B: The sessions will be held in Geneva, partially as hybrid meetings (a.m.) and partially as informal meetings (p.m.). For both meetings, delegates may participate in person in the conference room or join the session remotely.

The hybrid meetings will take place in a conference room on the mornings of 14-18 September from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. with interpretation into English, French, Russian and German (again using “Interprefy”). These sessions are considered as official sessions and are intended to adopt decisions.

The informal meetings will take place in another conference room in the afternoons from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. (3 hours) in English only (without interpretation) using either “Cisco Webex” or “MS Teams”.

The aim of this solution is to take account of the fact now known that some delegates may be able to travel, while others may not. It takes into account the different technical solutions available at the UN and OTIF to enable all to participate equitably, with the help of interpretation as much as possible. This will also help ensure that the required quorum is reached.

As some sessions (those with interpretation) are considered as official and the other sessions are informal, the timetable will be organised in such a way that those documents on which a decision is required and possible will be looked at as a priority during these sessions. Documents where orientation and guidance is mainly expected will be discussed during the informal sessions without interpretation. However, if in-depth discussions on proposals in the informal meetings lead to draft proposals that are liable to be adopted, it may be possible to make the decisions official at a subsequent official session.

Please do not forget to register online through the links indicated in the provisional agenda mentioned above, irrespective of whether you intend to participate physically in the session or remotely. This is absolutely necessary in order that you can be invited to the remote session. Please indicate your preference in the comment box by selecting “in person” or “remote”. This will make it easier for us to reserve the conference room.

Further details on the location of the conference rooms in Geneva and the various links and user guidelines for remote participation will be circulated to all delegates at a later date.

All documents that were submitted for the March session are placed on the agenda for the September session and have priority for discussion (see provisional agenda).
The provisional timetable and list of documents by agenda item will be published in due time, as usual, as informal documents.

The secretariats, together with the chairs, will contact the chairpersons of the Working Group on Tanks and the Working Group on Standards and agree with them how the working group meetings will be held (fully remote meeting or hybrid meeting). Information on this will follow at a later date.

The secretariats remain at your disposal should you require additional clarification or support.