

**OTIF**



**ORGANISATION INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE POUR  
LES TRANSPORTS INTERNATIONAUX FERROVIAIRES**

**ZWISCHENSTAATLICHE ORGANISATION FÜR DEN  
INTERNATIONALEN EISENBAHNVERKEHR**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR INTER-  
NATIONAL CARRIAGE BY RAIL**

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**RID: 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods  
(Madrid, 21 - 25 November 2005)**

**Subject: Languages to be used in the consignment note**

**Proposal transmitted by Belgium**

### **Summary**

Amend 5.4.1.4.1 to allow agreements between States concerning the use of languages other than German, English and French in the consignment note, as provided for in 5.4.1.4.1 of ADR.

### **Introduction**

In RID 2005, 5.4.1.4.1 concerning the languages to be used in the consignment note was amended in order to permit consignment notes that are written in English only, thus promoting intermodal transport.

RID 2004:

**5.4.1.4.1** The tariffs applicable at the forwarding station shall determine the language in which the particulars to be filled in by the consignor in the consignment note shall be entered. In the absence of such provisions, they shall be entered in one of the official languages of the State of departure and a translation in French or German shall be added unless the particulars have been entered in one of those languages.

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RID 2005:

**5.4.1.4.1** The consignment note shall be filled out in one or more languages, one of which shall be French, German or English.

The current wording of 5.4.1.4.1 does not provide for any agreements, for example between two neighbouring States with the same language, as is the case in ADR. Previously, it was possible to deal with this issue in the forwarding stations' tariffs.

ADR 2005:

**5.4.1.4.1** (second sub-paragraph)

The particulars to be entered in the document shall be drafted in an official language of the forwarding country, and also, if that language is not English, French, or German, in English, French or German, **unless international road carriage tariffs, if any, or agreements concluded between the countries concerned in the transport operation, provide otherwise.**

### **Proposal**

Belgium proposes an addition to RID 5.4.1.4.1 to permit agreements between different States concerning the languages to be used in the consignment notes.

**5.4.1.4.1** The consignment note shall be filled out in one or more languages, one of which shall be English, French or German, unless the tariffs applicable at the forwarding station, if any, or agreements concluded between the countries concerned in the transport operation, provide otherwise.

### **Justification**

In Belgium and the Netherlands, consignment notes for consignments between these two States that were only written in Dutch were always permitted.

Such agreements are permitted for ADR transport operations.

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