

**OTIF**



**ORGANISATION INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE POUR  
LES TRANSPORTS INTERNATIONAUX FERROVIAIRES**

**ZWISCHENSTAATLICHE ORGANISATION FÜR DEN  
INTERNATIONALEN EISENBAHNVERKEHR**

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

**OCTI/RID/CE/42/5k)**

31 October 2005

Original: German

**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 the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT) concerning  
Belgium's document OCTI/RID/CE/42/5a)**

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**Summary**

Addition to Belgium's proposal in OCTI/RID/CE/42/5a concerning RID 5.4.1.4.1.

**Introduction**

In its proposal OCTI/RID/CE/42/5a), Belgium proposes to require in RID 5.4.1.4.1 that the tariffs or States may allow derogations with regard to the languages to be used.

The CIT provisions (CIM Consignment Note Manual (GLV-CIM)) are worded as follows:

"Except where otherwise agreed between the consignor and carrier, the consignment note is to be printed and filled out in one or more languages of which one at least must be English, French or German."

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This provision achieves Belgium's objective. However, if the RID Committee of Experts considers that it is essential to include a specific provision in RID itself, Belgium's proposal should be modified.

## **Proposal**

### Alternative A

Delete the existing provision in RID, in the knowledge that the CIT provisions dealing with this issue are sufficient. It is not in the interest of either the customer or the carrier to use languages that are not commonly understood.

### Alternative B

Take the text of the CIT provisions and add the following. Paragraph 5.4.1.4.1 would read as follows:

**"5.4.1.4.1** Except where otherwise agreed **between the States concerned with the consignment or between the parties to the contract of carriage**, the transport document is to be printed and filled out in one or more languages of which one at least must be English, French or German."

## **Justification**

The 1999 CIM UR no longer contain any provisions concerning the languages to be used.

The Manuals prepared by CIT (GLV-CIM, GLW-CUV) determine the languages to be used in the transport documents (CIM consignment note, CUV wagon consignment note). They also specify that the parties to the contract of carriage may derogate from the general rule.

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