Introduction

For tank wagons constructed before 1 January 2005 intended for the carriage of certain dangerous goods, the transitional provisions in RID (1.6.3.27) prescribe the retrofitting of energy absorption elements with a minimum energy absorption capacity of 500 kJ at each end of the wagon. The retrofitting must be carried out by 1 January 2011.

The new edition of UIC leaflet 573 (6th edition, April 2005) contains all the parameters that apply to this new type of buffers, i.e.:

- the marking,
- the technical properties,
- the modalities for the approval of crash elements.

This UIC leaflet was published in August 2005. Since then, France has experienced difficulties in connection with the approval of buffers.

Proposal

Extend the deadline laid down in the last sub-paragraph of 1.6.3.27 (a) to 1 January 2013.

Justification

Operators must be given the opportunity of complying with the provisions despite the problems in connection with the approval of the buffers.

In addition, the date proposed ties in with the rhythm of the periodic tests and inspections (twice four years or eight years).