

OTIF



**ORGANISATION INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE POUR
LES TRANSPORTS INTERNATIONAUX FERROVIAIRES**

**ZWISCHENSTAATLICHE ORGANISATION FÜR DEN
INTERNATIONALEN EISENBAHNVERKEHR**

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

OTIF/RID/CE/2009/7

5 October 2009

Original: German

RID: 47th Session of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Sofia, 16 - 20 November 2009)

Subject: Providing the RID files free of charge for publication in the national promulgating organs

Proposal transmitted by Germany

SUMMARY

Analytical summary:

Up to now, OTIF has not been prepared to make the RID files available for publication in the Federal Law Gazette free of charge. The files needed for printing have had to be purchased.

Decision to be taken:

OTIF should be asked to make the RID files available free of charge and unencumbered with third parties' rights for publication in an official national promulgating organ.

Related documents:

None.

For reasons of cost, only a limited number of copies of this document have been made. Delegates are asked to bring their own copies of documents to meetings. OTIF only has a small number of copies available.

Introduction

1. The Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) publishes RID in the official languages of COTIF (English, French and German). These official OTIF editions are usually published in a hard copy and in an electronic version on CD-ROM.
2. In Germany however, to implement RID at national level, RID must be promulgated in the Federal Law Gazette – the public promulgating publication of the Federal Republic of Germany. This means that all the amendments to RID and the so-called notifications of a new version (consolidated versions of RID, e.g. “RID 2009”) must be promulgated in the Federal Law Gazette.
3. For publication in the Federal Law Gazette, a print-ready copy is required. In Germany however, no such print-ready copy is kept, as for various reasons, it would not make sense to keep such a copy at various places in parallel (e.g. for the German version, at OTIF and in Germany, Austria and Switzerland) and to administer it constantly. This is why Germany has previously obtained the relevant electronic files from OTIF.
4. Unfortunately, OTIF has not so far been prepared to make these data available free of charge for publication in the Federal Law Gazette. As a result, the files needed for printing in the Federal Law Gazette have in the past been obtained by the publisher of the Federal Gazette.
5. The Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ) has now informed the Federal Ministry of Transport, Construction and Urban Affairs (BMVBS) that for publications intended to be promulgated in an official federal promulgating organ, it expects all official bodies involved to support achieving the most efficient and cost-effective publication procedures. This is to be achieved in particular by providing the material to be published in suitable file formats.
6. Therefore, with a view to future publishing plans, the BMJ has asked that files intended for publication in an official federal promulgating organ be made available free of charge and unencumbered with third parties’ rights.

Proposal

7. Germany asks the RID Committee of Experts to discuss the issue of the provision of RID files for publication in the national promulgating organs and to take a decision to ask OTIF to make the relevant files available free of charge and unencumbered with third parties’ rights.
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