

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/2009/9

8 October 2009

Original: French

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

Subject: Making RID available on OTIF's website

Proposal transmitted by Switzerland

1. The Federal Office of Transport is often contacted by people from outside wishing to consult RID on a specific matter and asking where they can find the applicable texts.
2. As the Federal Office of Transport has not purchased the rights to publish RID on its website, it cannot make RID accessible to the public. Those wishing to consult RID must either borrow it or purchase it.
3. This is an unsatisfactory situation. In most countries, the national body of legislation is freely available to the public on official websites. In addition, as ignorance of the law is no defence, it can presumably be made available to the public free of charge.
4. In contrast, the UN's website allows the complete .pdf text of international regulations that it has to publish, such as ADR and ADN, to be consulted and downloaded. The files with the various parts of the regulations are linked to each other with "bookmarks", allowing easy navigation between the various files.
5. In connection with the harmonisation of RID/ADR/ADN with the 16th edition of the UN Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, in September 2009 the Joint Meeting adopted a new Chapter 3.4 on the carriage of dangerous goods in limited quantities which is fully harmonised with the UN Model Regulations. As the threshold quantities for numerous substances in the former RID/ADR/ADN system differ from those in the UN Model Regulations, it was also decided to allow the former Chapter 3.4 of RID/ADR/ADN to be applied until 30 June 2015. To avoid having to print both these parallel systems in RID/ADR/ADN, the Joint

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Meeting asked that by 30 June 2015, the Secretariats of UNECE and OTIF should accord free access to the 2009 editions of ADR, ADN and RID on their websites (see paragraph 89 of report ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/116).

6. Switzerland asks the RID Committee of Experts to entrust the OTIF Secretariat with the task of taking a lead from the solution chosen by the UN, and in particular:
 - to make available to all internet users the full current and previous editions of RID (like, for example, the 2007 and 2009 editions of ADR on the UN website) in all three official languages,
 - to use navigation tools that are as user-friendly as the ones used by the UN, e.g. .pdf files linked by “bookmarks” that allow easy navigation between the various files,
 - to allow a link to be included on the OTIF website which can be clicked to download the RID texts for use on official national websites.

Remark:

Using the CD-ROM manufactured with a special programme that was issued together with the German edition of RID 2009 has turned out to be rather tiresome and not user-friendly, compared with the CD-ROM that was issued with the English editions and whose .pdf files are linked by means of bookmarks. The .pdf files issued with the French texts are not linked with bookmarks either, which makes it more difficult to read texts across the various parts of RID.

It would be desirable to use identical, high-performance navigation tools in all three language versions.
