

**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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**Subject: Chapter 7.7: Hand luggage and registered luggage**

**Proposal transmitted by Switzerland**

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## **Introduction**

1. Recently, a package being carried in a train as hand luggage containing a virus specimen exploded in a carriage with about sixty passengers. A laboratory technician was carrying eight phials (five of which contained a virus) from Zurich to Geneva for assessment tests. The explosion caused slight injuries to the escort and a passenger.
2. According to the information received, this virus was classified as category B under UN No. 3373 and was packed in accordance with the provisions of P 650. However, some of the dry ice surrounding the phials was present inside the hermetically closed package. When the dry ice sublimated, it gave off some gas which caused the package to explode.
3. This incident was due to negligence on the part of the packer, who did not observe all the provisions of packing instruction P 650, and more particularly paragraph 9 (a).
4. It was recalled by the carrier that infectious viruses are carried like this every day and that packages are sometimes sent by post. In this case, special provision 319 and packaging instruction P 650 (see paragraph (11)), which apply to UN No. 3373, exempt packaged substances and packages marked in accordance with the packing instruction from the other provisions of RID.

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5. This incident, which the media reported at length, had the advantage of provoking a particularly attentive examination of the provisions of the regulations applicable to hand luggage containing dangerous goods:

"7.1.7 Substances and articles of RID, except those which are handed over for carriage as colis express, may only be forwarded in freight trains."

**Chapter 7.7:**

"...

Dangerous goods may only be carried as hand luggage or registered luggage or in or on board motor vehicles (car on train) if the exemption requirements of 1.1.3.1 (a) or (b), 1.1.3.2 (b), (d) or (f), 1.1.3.3 or 1.1.3.7 are applicable for the carriage."

6. Two points need to be made:
- a) There is a contradiction between these two provisions: the first excludes hand luggage containing dangerous goods (a colis express is not hand luggage) from passenger trains, while the second allows hand luggage under certain conditions.
  - b) Chapter 7.7 limits the exemptions to certain provisions of section 1.1.3. Does this mean that the other exemptions of section 1.1.3 or chapters 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 do not apply to hand luggage? Clarification is required.

**Proposal**

7. Amend 7.1.7 as follows (new text underlined):

"Substances and articles of RID, except those which are handed over for carriage as colis express, or which are authorised as hand luggage or registered luggage in accordance with Chapter 7.7, may only be forwarded in freight trains."

8. Amend Chapter 7.7 as follows (new text underlined):

"...

Dangerous goods may only be carried as hand luggage or registered luggage or in or on board motor vehicles (car on train) if their carriage is exempted in accordance with RID. However, the exemptions under the following shall not apply in this case:

- 1.1.3.1 (c) to (f),
- 1.1.3.2 (a), (c) and (e),
- 1.1.3.4.2,
- 1.1.3.4.3,
- 1.1.3.5 and
- 1.1.3.6."

**Justification**

9. These amendments do not alter current practice at all. They express more clearly the provisions that apply, thus avoiding differences of interpretation.

According to this new wording of Chapter 7.7, the carriage of all goods exempted from RID (including those exempted by virtue of packaging instruction P 650) is authorised as hand luggage or registered luggage, except the exceptions. Chapter 7.7 would no longer refer to the exemptions authorised but to those that are not authorised.

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