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

Subject: Multilateral special agreements – Notification to the Member States

Transmitted by Switzerland

1. Normally, a State that has signed a multilateral special agreement informs the other 42 OTIF Member States by sending them a letter.

2. Switzerland proposes that this practice, which dates from another era, be scrapped. RID 1.5.1.1 requires the Secretariat of OTIF to bring all temporary derogations agreed under the conditions of this paragraph to the attention of the Member States. The Secretariat achieves this by means of regular updates to its website. In addition, the Secretariat undertakes to add States to the list of signatory States within two weeks of notification.

3. In these circumstances, it is no longer necessary for the signatory State to send the other Member States a letter.