



**OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2017/4**

7 April 2017

Original: German

**RID:** 8<sup>th</sup> session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group  
(Utrecht, 20 to 24 November 2017)

**Subject:** Carriage of infectious substances of category B of UN number 3373

**Proposal transmitted by the Secretariat**

### **Introduction**

1. Special provision 319 is assigned to UN number 3373 (Biological substance, category B). This special provision says that substances packed in accordance with packing instruction P 650 are not subject to any other requirements of RID. Paragraph (9) of packing instruction P 650 contains requirements relating to the use of dry ice or liquid nitrogen as a coolant. In particular, it says that the primary receptacle and the secondary packaging must maintain their integrity at the temperature of the refrigerant used as well as the temperatures and the pressures which could result if refrigeration were lost.
2. UN number 3373 is also assigned special provision CE 14 for carriage as express parcels. This special provision says that only substances which are not to be carried at a specific ambient temperature may be forwarded as express parcels.

### **Question of interpretation**

3. The question has arisen as to what is meant by the wording "which are not to be carried at a specific ambient temperature" and whether this wording can only relate to safety during carriage or whether it can also relate to ensuring the quality of the substances being carried.

4. As packing instruction P 650 allows dry ice and liquid nitrogen to be used as a matter of principle and as coolant is added specifically to maintain an ambient temperature, the specific question that arises in this context is whether infectious substances of category B carried using dry ice or liquid nitrogen are allowed as express parcels.
  5. In connection with this, it should perhaps be remembered that for carriage as registered luggage in accordance with 1.1.3.8, the exemption in 1.1.3.4.1 would apply. Therefore, it should simply be possible to carry a package that complies with special provision 319 and packing instruction P 650 as registered luggage.
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