



OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2018/6

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RID: 9th Session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group
(Berne, 28 - 30 May 2018)

Subject: Carriage of UN 3507 Uranium hexafluoride as express parcels

Proposal transmitted by the Secretariat

Introduction

UN 3507

1. As part of the 2015 amendments to RID/ADR/ADN, UN number 3507 (URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE, RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, EXCEPTED PACKAGE less than 0.1 kg per package, non-fissile or fissile-excepted) was newly included in the regulations.
2. Although this is a radioactive material, it was decided to indicate its main hazard as corrosiveness and it was assigned to Class 8, packing group I.
3. As part of the 2017 amendments to RID/ADR/ADN, it was then decided that its main hazard would be its toxicity and corrosiveness was indicated as a subsidiary hazard.
4. When this material was first included in the provisions in 2015, it was assigned special provision CE 15 in column (19) of Chapter 3.2, Table A of RID, for carriage as express parcels. This special provision is also assigned to the other two entries for uranium hexafluoride (UN 2977 RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE, FISSILE and UN 2978 RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE, non-fissile or fissile-excepted) as well as to all radioactive materials of Class 7.

5. This special provision reads as follows:

"CE 15 For express parcels packages, the sum of the transport indexes on the danger labels in a luggage van or luggage compartment shall not be more than 10. For packages of category III-YELLOW, the carrier may determine the time of delivery of the consignment. An express parcels package shall not weigh more than 50 kg."

6. As UN 3507 is not considered as material of Class 7, no transport index is shown on the danger label, so the only restriction that remains for carriage as express parcels is the maximum mass of 50 kg per package, which, in view of the 100 g limit for uranium hexafluoride in each package (see proper shipping name), should not be reached. This means that an unlimited number of packages containing UN number 3507 could be loaded into a luggage van or luggage compartment, provided the maximum mass of the package specified in special provision CE 15 is not exceeded.
7. If one now looks at the other substances of Class 6.1, packing group I, it can be seen that most of these substances are not permitted for carriage as express parcels. The exceptions to this are cyanides, inorganic, solid, n.o.s. of UN number 1588, to which special provision CE 13 is assigned, and various pesticides, to which special provision CE 12 is assigned.
8. Among the substances of Class 6.1, packing group I which, according to column (5) of Table A, have corrosiveness as a subsidiary hazard, there are no substances that are permitted for carriage as express parcels, except UN number 3507.

UN 2977 and UN 2978

9. As part of the 2017 amendments to RID/ADR/ADN, UN numbers 2977 (RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE, FISSILE) and 2978 (RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE, non-fissile or fissile-excepted), for which the subsidiary hazard of corrosiveness was already indicated in column (5) of Table A, were also assigned the subsidiary hazard of toxicity.
10. Special provision CE 15 was still assigned to these two substances.
11. An analysis of Table A shows that substances that also have the subsidiary hazards of toxicity and corrosiveness are only permitted for carriage as express parcels if they are assigned to packing group II (or III). In these cases, the maximum quantity is limited to 7 litres or the maximum mass is limited to 12 kg per package. Substances of packing group I that have both these subsidiary hazards may not be carried as express parcels (see also paragraph 8).

Proposal

12. For the reasons described above, it is proposed to delete special provision CE 15 from column (19) of Chapter 3.2, Table A, for UN numbers 2977, 2978 and 3507.