



INF. 4

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RID: 10th Session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group
(Krakow, 21 to 23 November 2018)

Subject: Early application of standards

Proposal transmitted by the Secretariat

1. Reference is made to the paragraphs from the report of the last RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting (Geneva, 17 to 21 September 2018) reproduced in informal document INF.3.
2. As explained in paragraph 18 of this extract from the report, a standard which has been adopted for reference in a future edition of RID may be approved by the competent authority for application without notifying the OTIF Secretariat. 6.8.2.7 and 6.2.5 contain such a provision for tanks and pressure receptacles respectively.
3. Standards intended to be referred to in RID are examined by the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting's standards working group and, if appropriate, are proposed to the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting for adoption.
4. As all the Joint Meeting's decisions can only serve as recommendations for the individual land transport modes and only the RID Committee of Experts can decide to adopt amendments to RID, the question for the Secretariat is whether a corresponding decision by the Joint Meeting is sufficient to apply a standard ahead of time.
5. This question is less urgent for ADR because amendments adopted by the Joint Meeting are usually submitted to the next session of WP.15 for approval and WP.15 is the body responsible for adopting amendments to ADR.
6. However, all the amendments adopted by the Joint Meeting are only submitted to the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group at the end of a biennium, as the RID Committee of Experts only meets at the end of each biennium.

7. The Secretariat is of the view that a strict interpretation of the provisions of 6.2.5 and 6.8.2.7 would mean that all the standards adopted by the Joint Meeting should first be submitted to the RID Committee of Experts for adoption, using a written procedure if necessary, so that the competent authorities can allow them to be applied. However, the original intention of these provisions was that application would be allowed as soon as the Joint Meeting decided to refer to the standard in question.
 8. The Secretariat therefore raises the question of how the adoption of standards should be dealt with in future.
 - Should all standards adopted for reference by the Joint Meeting be submitted to the RID Committee of Experts for adoption using a written procedure?
 - Should only those standards that could not be included in the 2019 amendments to RID because they have not been published on time be submitted to the RID Committee of Experts using a written procedure? This would concern standards EN ISO 17871:2015 + A1:2018, EN 1440:2016 + A1:2018, EN 16728:2016 + A1:2018, EN 14025:2018 and EN 12972:2018, which, according to a transitional period laid down by the Joint Meeting, must already be applied from 1 January 2022.
 - Should an interpretation be included in the report of the standing working group to say that the provisions in the fourth sub-paragraph of 6.2.5 and in the third sub-paragraph of 6.8.2.7 should be taken to mean that the competent authority may allow a standard to be applied as soon as it has been adopted by the Joint Meeting?
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