TO THE MEMBER STATES AND ASSOCIATED MEMBERS OF OTIF AND TO REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE ACCEDED TO COTIF

15th Session of the RID Committee of Experts’ standing working group
(Berne/hybrid, 23 and 24 November 2022)
1. At its 14th session (Berne, 23 and 24 May 2022), the RID Committee of Experts’ standing working group agreed to hold its 15th session from 23 to 25 November 2022 (see report OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2022-A, paragraph 35).

2. Immediately before the 15th session of the standing working group, the 19th session of the working group on tank and vehicle technology was to have been held on 21 and 22 November 2022.

3. Due to the limited number of topics for the standing working group meeting, the Secretariat and the Chairs of both working groups decided to reduce the two meetings to three days in total.

4. The 15th session of the standing working group and the 19th session of the working group on tank and vehicle technology will be held as hybrid meetings which delegates may attend in person or take part in remotely. The invitation to the meeting of the working group on tank and vehicle technology will be sent by separate letter.

**TIME OF THE MEETING**

5. The 15th session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group will be held on 23 and 24 November 2022. **The meeting will start on 23 November 2022 at 14:30 CET and will end on 24 November 2022 at 17:30 CET.**

6. At the moment, all restrictions related to the COVID 19 pandemic have been lifted in Switzerland. Thus, international conferences are no longer subject to restrictions on access, distance, hygiene, the obligation to wear a mask or data collection. Hosts or organisers may decide to require the wearing of masks or to impose other restrictions on access to certain places or events, in particular if this is necessary to ensure the protection of those present.

7. Currently, no special measures are in place at the designated meeting venue.

8. Depending on the situation in terms of infections, the Swiss health authorities may also impose stricter measures at short notice before the meeting, which may restrict personal participation or make it impossible. If you decide to attend in person, we recommend that you organise your travel in such a way that bookings can be cancelled at any time.

9. The website of the [Swiss Federal Office of Public Health](https://www.bfs.admin.ch) contains more information about the current requirements for entering Switzerland. We will inform you of the current status around two weeks before the meeting. At that time, we will also provide you with the access details to attend the meeting remotely.
VENUE

10. The meeting will be held at:

   Universal Postal Union (UPU)
   Weltpoststrasse 4
   CH – 3015 Bern

   The meeting will be held in the “Montgomery Blair B” room on the ground floor.

HOTELS

11. Hotels in Berne are listed on the following website.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

12. In accordance with Article 22 § 3 of the RID Committee of Experts’ Rules of Procedure, the Rules of Procedure will be applied analogously at meetings of the working groups.

13. In connection with Article 5 § 2 of these Rules of Procedure, the RID Committee of Experts decided to invite the same organisations and associations to the meetings of the RID Committee of Experts as are invited to the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting.


LANGUAGES

15. The working languages will be German, English and French. There will be consecutive interpretation into German and French and simultaneous interpretation into English.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

16. Based on the information and proposals available so far, the Secretariat of OTIF proposes the following provisional agenda:

   ITEM 1: Approval of the agenda
   ITEM 2: Presence
   ITEM 3: Interpretation of RID
   TOP4: Proposals to amend RID
      a) Pending issues
      b) New proposals
   ITEM 5: Report of the working group on tank and vehicle technology
   ITEM 6: Harmonisation of RID and SMGS Annex 2
   ITEM 7: Information from the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)
ITEM 8: Any other business

COMMENTS AND DOCUMENTATION

17. The official documents and informal documents for this session of the standing working group can be downloaded from OTIF’s website.

18. The following topics should be discussed under the various items of the agenda. Further topics may be added on the basis of documents still to be received:

ITEM 2: Even though Article 20 (Quorum) of the Rules of Procedure does not apply to the meeting of this working group, it is requested that as many RID Contracting States as possible take part in order to obtain results that are likely to achieve majority support so that they can be adopted at the 58th session of the RID Committee of Experts in May 2024.

At the 6th session, Ms Caroline Bailleux (Belgium) was elected to chair this standing working group until further notice. At the 10th session, Mr Othmar Krammer (Austria) was elected as Deputy Chair until further notice.

ITEM 3: So far, no documents are available for this agenda item.

ITEM 4 a): So far, no documents are available for this agenda item.

ITEM 4 b): The following information and documents have been announced for this agenda item:

– Recommendation on involving stakeholders in OTIF’s work adopted by the OTIF ad hoc Committee on Legal Affairs and International Cooperation of OTIF

ITEM 5: The results of the 19th session of the RID Committee of Experts’ working group on tank and vehicle technology (Berne/hybrid 22 and 23 November 2022) will be discussed under this agenda item.

ITEM 6: So far, no documents are available for this agenda item.

ITEM 7: ERA will submit information on this standing agenda item in an informal document. The Member States are asked to make any requests concerning the content of the information from ERA via the Secretariat.

ITEM 8: So far, no documents are available for this agenda item.

19. Documents with document reference number "OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/...” are available on OTIF’s website.
REGISTRATION

20. As usual, delegates are kindly requested to register their attendance by no later than 4 November 2022 using the online form. This is particularly important, as remote participation is only possible with a personal link that will be sent before the meeting. If you do not register in time, there is a risk that you will not receive the necessary information in time.

TRAVEL TICKETS

21. Those delegates who intend travelling by train are asked to contact the relevant railway networks directly to obtain any facilitated transport services.

Yours faithfully

p.p. [Signature]

(Wolfgang Küpper)
Secretary General

cc:

– interested international organisations and associations, as an invitation
– railway undertakings, with the request to honour the above-mentioned free travel