

OTIF



**ORGANISATION INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE POUR
LES TRANSPORTS INTERNATIONAUX FERROVIAIRES**

**ZWISCHENSTAATLICHE ORGANISATION FÜR DEN
INTERNATIONALEN EISENBAHNVERKEHR**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR INTER-
NATIONAL CARRIAGE BY RAIL**

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TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF OTIF

**Final report of the RID Committee of Experts' Working Group on Tank and Vehicle
Technology**

(Munich, 14 and 15 June 2007)

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1. At the invitation of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS), the 8th session of the RID Committee of Experts' working group on tank and vehicle technology was held on 15 June 2007 in Munich. **On the day before the working group meeting, a workshop entitled "Telematics applications in the intermodal transport of dangerous goods" was organised by BMVBS. The presentations given at this workshop can be downloaded from:**
http://www.bmvbs.de/Verkehr/Gefahrgut/Veranstaltungs-dokumentationen-2925.1000785/Gefahrgut-Workshop-Telematikan.htm?global.back=/Verkehr/Gefahrgut/-%2c2925%2c0/Veranstaltungs-dokumentationen.htm%3flink%3dbmv_liste%26link.sKategorie%3d
2. The following States took part in the discussions at this meeting: Belgium, Germany, France, Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, Czech Republic and the United Kingdom. The European Commission and the European Railway Agency (ERA) were also represented. In addition, the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT), the International Union of Railways (UIC), the International Union of Private Wagons (UIP) and the Union of European Railway Industries (UNIFE) also took part (see Annex).

Chairmen

3. As already decided at the first session, Mr. H.-J. Kellerhaus (Germany) chaired the meeting and Mr. A. Bale (United Kingdom) was vice-chairman.

ITEM 1: Approval of the agenda

4. The provisional agenda contained in the invitation (document A 81-03/501.2007) was adopted.

ITEM 2 a): Derailment detection

5. In a presentation (see document OTIF/RID/CE/GT/2007/1, English only), the representative of ERA set out the statistical data from 2004 and **2005**. If the need to reduce the risk of derailments arose, ERA would investigate the following points:
 - construction, maintenance and **inspection** of rolling stock and infrastructure;
 - operating regulations;
 - **requirements for staff training and the maintenance of professional competence;**
 - the Organisation's safety management system **and the regulatory systems;**
 - **hot axle box or derailment detection equipment on board the rolling stock or at the trackside.**

Currently ERA had no basis to initiate work on measures to reduce the level of risk of derailment. However, ERA would examine the most efficient and economic way to implement appropriate changes as part of the work on Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSI), if consideration of the following points indicated the need to reduce risk:

1. **Is there any analysis of the need to reduce the risk of derailments involving dangerous goods, including comparison of the different transport modes?**
2. **Would improvements in RID reduce the consequences in the event of a derailment?**
3. **Is there documentation that calls for a reduction in the level of risk in the railway system – by how much?**

He added that in future, the Agency would also include a dangerous goods specialist among its staff.

6. The representative of ERA confirmed that **there was no requirement for derailment detection in the TSI for freight wagons. In the presentation it was explained that the Agency has at present no reason to include this requirement in the TSI. According to this TSI, freight wagons for the transport of dangerous goods must also fulfil RID requirements. If the RID Committee of Experts decided to include requirements for derailment detectors on dangerous goods wagons in RID, then freight wagons for the transport of dangerous goods would have to fulfil these requirements.**
7. The representative of Belgium was **of the view that** derailment detectors on **individual** dangerous goods wagons would only resolve part of the problem, as other wagons in the same train composition could **derail without being detected and cause the derailment of other wagons. She also emphasised that** container carrying wagons, which **carried all types of containers, would not be fitted with detectors when dangerous goods were being carried.**
8. In presentations given at the workshop on “telematics applications in the intermodal transport of dangerous goods”, which had been held the day before the working group, representatives of Swiss Railways (SBB) and Oerlikon-Knorr Eisenbahntechnik (OKE) had explained that the mechanical pneumatic derailment detectors with the modified tripping thresholds were no longer subject to false activation. In trials carried out with ONCF (Office national des chemins de fer du Maroc) in Morocco, it had been demonstrated that despite the modified tripping thresholds **(9.0 +/- 2.5 g instead of 7.5 +/- 2.5 g)**, the derailment detectors tripped reliably. An accident in Cornaux (Neuchâtel) had shown that in accidents, derailment detectors could reduce the extent of the damage. In this particular accident, wagons without derailment detectors had derailed before the derailment detector on a following wagon tripped as a result of the damaged track.
9. The representatives of Belgium and Sweden were concerned that the original tests had not been carried out using the new tripping values. In addition, tests should be carried out using different train compositions and at different temperatures.
10. The representative of OKE pointed out that the new settings were also within the range of accelerations **originally** laid down by UIC. For this reason, UIC had also maintained the approval for the derailment detector with modified tripping values. However, he did concede that the upper threshold **of 10 g that had originally been set** would be exceeded at very low temperatures.
11. For the representative of Austria, the tripping of derailment detectors in tunnels still constituted a deficiency, as **one would still have to wait until the derailment detector that had been activated had vented the main brake pipe. Only then would the detector return to its initial setting so that the train could leave the tunnel. However, it would only be possible to continue the journey after a derailment without the detector tripping again if the derailment detector were to be deactivated by closing the associated stop cock. The representative of Austria also doubted that forced braking was always the best solution if a derailment occurred. The presentations at the workshop had shown that the wagons concerned run very stably provided no other circumstances occurred to change this. Rapid braking, together with the accordion effect of the wagons could bring about such circumstances, while a locomotive driver who has been alerted could react appropriately to the situation.**
12. Following this discussion, the working group recommended to the RID Committee of Experts to include provisions in RID 2009, in the context of a pilot project, for fitting tank-wagons/ battery wagons with derailment detectors, without prescribing specific systems (mechanical/

pneumatic, electronic). The locomotive driver had to receive a clear signal indicating that a derailment had occurred. The venting of the main brake pipe was considered to be a clear signal. This measure should only apply to new-build tank-wagons/battery-wagons for the carriage of certain groups of substances, which had yet to be established. **However, before that could be done**, it would have to be proved in trials that the derailment detector tripped reliably at speeds between 35 and 40 km/h. **After two to four years, it should be checked what the effects of this pilot project were in practice and which groups of substances derailment detectors should be prescribed for.**

13. The representative of Germany said he was prepared to draft a proposal along these lines for the RID Committee of Experts, but the working group should examine it first.
14. The representative of OKE assured the meeting that the necessary tests would be carried out as soon as possible, with the participation of the members of the working group.
15. The representative of Sweden **feared that there might be false activations at low temperatures. His concerns were based on the stiffness of the sub-frame in conditions of severe frost. He asked for data established on the basis, for example, of tests or other investigations that confirmed that cold conditions did not cause false tripping (because of the associated disruptions to traffic and problematical recovery operations) and that the detectors also tripped reliably when a derailment occurred at low temperatures.**
16. The representative of UIP saw the need for a long introductory phase in order to avoid a situation where only one manufacturer's products could be fitted.

ITEM 3 a): Dangerous goods telematics

17. At its last meeting (Berne, 26 - 30 March 2007), the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting had decided to set up an ad hoc working group to establish the terms of reference, a programme of work and a procedure for a future standing working group. This ad hoc working group will meet on 23 and 24 August at the invitation of Germany.
18. The representative of the Netherlands wanted it to be set out in the terms of reference that the forwarders would be kept informed of the progress of the work.
19. For the time being, the working group postponed dealing with the subject of dangerous goods telematics, pending the discussion at the Joint Meeting for all the European land modes. The working group would then come back to this subject if rail-specific requirements had to be established for specifications on what has to be done and how.

ITEM 4: Position of the wagon in the train (barrier wagon rule)

20. In a detailed presentation, the representative of UIC presented the results of his investigations into the subject of barrier wagons, which he would also submit to the RID Committee of Experts in a formal document.
21. He noted that different States have different barrier wagon rules in place for domestic transport. In Sweden, for example, **it had been prescribed until the end of 2006 that two-axle barrier wagons had to be loaded.** In the United Kingdom, there is a very complex list of dangerous goods that are incompatible in a train composition. In Italy, barrier wagons are required behind the locomotive in order to protect the locomotive driver. In Poland, Romania and Hungary, barrier wagons are also used for braking purposes.
22. He explained that an analysis of 1110 accidents had not been able to provide proof that a protection distance would have reduced the scale of an accident. In particular, it had not been possible to establish whether the potential risk also constituted an actual risk.

23. He referred to the additional costs that arose as a result of low wagon and train productivity (maximum train length) and to the increase in marshalling movements. Also, it was not clear at present which trains barrier wagons should be prescribed for (only for trains moving between marshalling yards or also for trains moving between the customer and the marshalling yard).
24. Following an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages, his view was that for reasons of operational efficiency, the barrier wagon rule in 7.5.3 should not be extended.
25. The representative of CEFIC warned against shifting traffic to the roads if additional barrier wagon rules led to an increase in carriage charges. **In response to this, the representative of UIP pointed out that the barrier wagon would have to be loaded in order not to increase the risk of it lifting up. This would make it more difficult to provide suitable wagons and would lead to increased costs.**
26. The representative of the Netherlands explained that an alternative to barrier wagons might be only to approve the carriage of certain compatible substances in the same train composition.
27. The majority of the working group saw no need for further action above and beyond the existing rule in RID 7.5.3, as the UIC study had shown that barrier wagons did not improve safety.

ITEM 5 a): Drip leaks

28. This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting so that a discussion could then be held on the basis of the results or interim results, which would be available by then, of the research project being carried out by the German Petroleum Industry Association (see report of the 43rd session of the RID Committee of Experts, OTIF/RID/CE/2006-A, paragraph 23). The Member States were requested to notify the causes of any drip leaks that were detected in the meantime.

ITEM 5 b): Four-axle wagons

29. The representative of UIC pointed out that the statement contained in informal document INF. 6a) from the 42nd session of the RID Committee of Experts, according to which the risk of derailment for two-axle wagons was in principle greater than for bogie wagons, was incorrect. In the UIC-ERRI study referred to, which was carried out in 1999 and 2000, it had simply been established that if the speed was increased from 100 to 120 km/h, the suspension system used previously was not stable enough.
30. This item would not be pursued until new documents were submitted (see also the report of the 42nd session of the RID Committee of Experts, A 81-03/501.2006, paragraph 79).

ITEM 5 c): Evaluation of the letters and research reports sent by the Association of American Railroads (AAR)

ITEM 5 d): Reports on incidents in the carriage of dangerous goods in accordance with section 1.8.5 of RID

ITEM 5 e): Tank-wagon Handbook

31. These agenda items were deferred to the next meeting.

ITEM 5 f): Monitoring the main brake pipe/air brake check

32. At the next meeting, this agenda item should be discussed in depth on the basis of a presentation given by Dr Walter (Knorr Brakes) at the workshop on “telematics applications in the intermodal transport of dangerous goods”.

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