



12th Session of the standing working group: remote meeting

The 12th session of the standing working group was originally to be held in May 2020, followed immediately afterwards by the 56th session of the RID Committee of Experts. The main focus of these sessions was to approve the modifications to the Regulation concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID) that will enter into force on 1 January 2021.

However, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 56th session of the Committee was cancelled and the 12th session of the standing working group was postponed. Consequently, many of the decisions that should have been taken in May 2020 were adopted using the written procedure. It was thus possible to adopt and publish the amended 2021 edition of RID in line with the usual timetable.

The 12th session of the standing working group will now be held from 24 to 26 November 2020. Owing to the health context this autumn, the meeting will be held remotely. There will be interpretation in OTIF's three working languages and in Russian in order to aid the harmonisation of RID and SMGS Annex 2.

According to the provisional agenda, participants will in particular be examining the [report of the working group on tank and vehicle technology](#), which reflects the most recent discussions on the design and use of the extra-large tank-containers currently being used by a large chemical company. Based on a risk assessment, the working group will have to consider certain questions: will the provisions of RID have to be supplemented in order to ensure the safety of rail transport? If so, how?

The RID Committee of Experts set up the standing working group in 2012. Its task is to prepare all the decisions for the Committee, which only meets every two years.

The working group deals with questions of interpretation and modification of the Regulation concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID). It also works on harmonising the provisions of RID and SMGS Annex 2, which governs the carriage of dangerous goods in the OSJD Member States.

