Publication of the new edition of RID

The 2021 edition of the Regulation concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID) is now available on the website of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) in the Organisation’s three working languages (French, German, English).

There is also a printed version of the new edition of RID. It is published in English and French by two publishers whose contact details can be found on OTIF’s website.

The new RID will enter into force on 1 January 2021 and will replace the 2019 edition. However, based on a general transitional measure, the provisions of the 2019 edition may still be applied until 30 June 2021.

RID applies to the international carriage of dangerous goods by rail between its 45 states parties in Europe, Asia and North Africa. In the Member States of the European Union, it also applies to national traffic.

In addition, it is closely coordinated with the provisions on the carriage of dangerous goods by rail (ADR) and by inland waterways (ADN), so as to facilitate multimodal transport.

RID 2021 includes several new features that take account of technical and scientific progress and which contribute to the further improvement of safe carriage by rail, a clean and energy-efficient mode of transport.

For example, RID 2021 introduces a new UN number (UN 3549) for solid waste generated from the medical treatment of humans or the veterinary treatment of animals infected by infectious substances of Category A and new packaging instructions are available for the carriage of this type of waste. The new edition of RID also contains references to new checklists for the filling and emptying of tank-wagons for liquids and gases in order to improve safety during transport.

It should be noted that a Russian version of the Regulation will be uploaded at some point in 2021.

The OTIF Secretariat welcomes the work carried out together with the states parties and the UNECE to comply with the two-year revision cycle for RID, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and new working practices.