New edition of the Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID)

Enters into force on 1 January 2011

On 1 July 2010, OTIF notified its Member States of the amendments to RID (http://www.otif.org/en/dangerous-goods/notification-texts/2010). The Member States have until 31 October 2010 to lodge objections. If none are lodged, the new version of RID will enter into force automatically on 1 January 2011.

For the 45 OTIF Member States, the new edition ensures harmonisation of the provisions with the 16th edition of the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, which apply worldwide (http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/unrec/rev16/16files_e.html).

Among the amendments specific to rail transport, the main ones concern the simplification of the marking provisions in piggyback transport, the legal revision of the provisions on the carriage of dangerous goods as hand luggage and registered luggage and the introduction of instructions in writing for locomotive drivers based on the dangerous goods provisions for road transport (ADR).

“Against the background of the increasing cross-border deployment of locomotive drivers, particularly within the EU, the introduction of a standard set of written instructions for locomotive drivers on what to do in the event of an emergency is long overdue”, said Stefan Schimming today, the Secretary General of OTIF in Berne.