RID: 3rd Session of the RID Committee of Experts’ standing working group
(Berne, 20 and 21 May 2014)

Subject: Carriage of UN 1361 Carbon in bulk

Proposal transmitted by EURACOAL

Introduction

1. At the 2nd session of the RID Committee of Experts’ standing working group on the transport of dangerous goods (Copenhagen, 18 to 22 November 2013), EURACOAL submitted a proposal in informal document INF.4 for a new special provision. The aim of the new special provision was broadly to exempt coal of UN number 1361, packing group III, carried in bulk, from the requirements of RID, provided certain conditions are met. The working group agreed that it was necessary to include a rule to clarify the issue. The rule should be pragmatic and proportionate to the risk. EURACOAL was asked to revise the proposal for the next session of the working group, bearing in mind the points raised by various participants. The revised proposal is set out below, taking as a basis the multilateral special agreement on this issue initiated by Germany. This agreement was sent to all the Member States concerned for their comments.

Proposals for amendment

2. In Table A of Chapter 3.2, for UN 1361 CARBON, animal or vegetable origin, packing group III, add a reference in column 6 to special provision "665".
3. In Chapter 3.3, add a new special provision 665 as follows:

"665 When carried in bulk, hard coal, coke and anthracite to be assigned to Class 4.2, packing group III and to UN No. 1361 CARBON are only subject to the following provisions and may also be carried in open wagons by derogation from the special provisions for carriage in bulk VW 4, provided that:

(a) the temperature in the pile of the whole load intended to be carried in the next seven days is not higher than 60 °C or the temperature of the cargo is not higher than 60 °C during or immediately after loading into the hold or

(b) this coal has been carried by inland navigation vessel and the temperature has already been measured and the storage period after unloading from the vessel is not longer than 7 days or

(c) the coal is conveyed from fresh extraction directly into the wagon and without measuring the temperature.

The filler shall ensure and document that the maximum permissible temperature of the cargo is not exceeded in the following cases:

(a) before loading in relation to the quantity (the pile) which is intended to be transported by rail within the next seven days,

(b) or during and immediately after loading the wagons, insofar as this is technically possible.

The other provisions of RID do not apply."

Secretariat note: In connection with the revision of the provisions for carriage in bulk, in the first sentence, “VW 4” should be replaced by: “VC 1 VC 2 AP 1”.

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