



**INF. 11**

17 November 2015

(English only)

**RID:** 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group  
(Zagreb, 23 - 27 November 2015)

**Subject:** Interpretation of RID 1.9.5

**Transmitted by the Netherlands**

#### **SUMMARY**

**Executive summary:** Interpretation of 1.9.5 in relation to its scope of application.

**Action to be taken:** –

**Related documents:** OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2015/11

#### **Introduction**

1. This document contains comments on document OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2015/11 – Interpretation of RID 1.9.5, transmitted by Belgium.
2. In this document, Belgium questions the policy on the safe transport of UN 1017 Chlorine by train in the Netherlands.
3. This policy contains, *inter alia*, measures relating to the composition of trains.
4. In accordance with RID Chapter 1.9 the Netherlands have notified the Secretariat of OTIF of these provisions, and they have been communicated to the Member States via OTIF's website. This has been done several times over a long period of time (more than 5 years).

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5. Now, after a long period of time, Belgium claims that these provisions are not in line with RID 1.9.5 and requests the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group to take a decision on the question as to whether measures concerning the composition of trains, which also apply to international trains, can be taken at national level on the basis of RID 1.9.5.

#### **Comments regarding the interpretation of RID 1.9.5**

6. RID 1.9.5 specifies that "*... specific requirements shall not concern the areas covered by RID*".
7. The areas covered by RID form the scope of RID, and they are listed in RID 1.1.2 (a) and RID 1.1.2 (b). Composition of trains is not mentioned in these articles.
8. Chapter 7.5 of RID covers "Loading, unloading and handling". This chapter deals with the handling of cargo, and not with the composition of trains. This means that the fact that RID 7.5.3 contains measures for the protective distance in the carriage of explosives is not a valid reason to assume that RID does cover the composition of trains.

#### **Conclusion**

9. It is the opinion of the Netherlands that measures concerning the composition of trains, which also apply to international trains, can be taken at a national level on the basis of RID 1.9.5. The Netherlands therefore request the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group to confirm the interpretation of RID 1.9.5 given in this document and to advise the RID Committee of Experts accordingly.
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