



## Amendments for RID 2017 adopted

On 25 May 2016 in Berne, the 2017 amendments to the Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID) were adopted by the RID Committee of Experts, which is the Committee of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) that is responsible for these Regulations. This decision was based on the amendments prepared over the last two years by the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group. The standing working group had decided on the final amendments shortly beforehand.

The RID Committee of Experts unanimously adopted all the amendments scheduled to enter into force on 1 January 2017. These will now be transmitted to the RID Contracting States by the end of June 2016, after which they will have four months in which to lodge any objections against these amendments.

Once this period for objections has expired, the Secretariat of OTIF will publish RID 2017 on its [website](#) at the beginning of November 2016 in the Organisation's working languages (German, English and French). The new edition of RID will apply from 1 January 2017, although a transitional provision will still allow RID 2015 to be applied up to 30 June 2017.

The most important amendments made in this revision are:

- the inclusion of obligations for the Entity in Charge of Maintenance (ECM),
- the possibility of holding written examinations for dangerous goods safety advisers wholly or partly in an electronic format,
- the inclusion of criteria for polymerizing substances in Class 4.1,
- the inclusion of eight new UN numbers in the dangerous goods list,
- the introduction of the concept of the reference holding time and actual holding time for tanks for the carriage of refrigerated liquefied gases,
- the introduction of new markings and danger labels for lithium batteries, and
- the inclusion of construction and testing requirements for flexible bulk containers.

The RID Committee of Experts also said goodbye to its chairman of many years, Mr Helmut Rein (Germany), who, since 1999, had led this Committee in the interests of all the Member States.