



Organisation intergouvernementale pour les transports internationaux ferroviaires
Zwischenstaatliche Organisation für den internationalen Eisenbahnverkehr
Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail

RID Committee of Experts' standing working group

RID-26060-CE-SWG21-3
Distrib: public

30.09.2026
Original: DE

21ST SESSION

Request for clarification regarding the interpretation of RID 5.4.1.2.1 (a), second indent

Suggestion transmitted by the International Union of Railways (UIC)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. UIC requests the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group to provide an interpretation of the second indent of 5.4.1.2.1 (a). According to the current regulations, the transport document must state the total net mass, in kg, of explosive contents (NEM) for each substance or article bearing a different UN number. However, in the case of carriage of full wagon loads, a single transport document is often issued for train-load consignments comprising more than 20 wagons. The resulting extremely high total NEM does not provide any degree of granularity; its specific significance for effective hazard prevention seems uncertain.

II. BACKGROUND

2. In practice, railway undertakings often state the NEM per wagon, which can make things clearer for the emergency services and control authorities. However, it is not clear whether such an approach complies with the requirements of RID or whether the total net mass across all wagons – that is, for all wagons covered by the same transport document – must be stated.

III. QUESTIONS

3. Is it useful to provide the total NEM for a complete train with more than 20 wagons, or is it more useful to provide the hazard control authorities with the NEM per wagon or per cargo transport unit?
4. Is it permissible to state only the NEM per wagon or per cargo transport unit in the transport document without specifying the total NEM on the train?

IV. SUGGESTION

5. UIC requests the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group to provide a binding interpretation of 5.4.1.2.1 (a), second indent, in particular regarding the permissibility of a single NEM entry per wagon/cargo transport unit, and whether it is mandatory to state the total NEM on the train in the transport document.
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