



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-26064-CE-SWG21-4b
Distrib: public

30.09.2026
Original: EN

21ST SESSION

Deletion of the fourth column (NHM Code) from RID 3.2.2, Table B

Suggestion transmitted by the International Union of Railways (UIC)

SUMMARY

Explanatory summary:

Due to changes in the way the railways use NHM codes, and the recent, complete harmonisation of NHM codes with the WCO code, the NHM column in Table B of RID 3.2.2 is no longer used. Consequently, it is not necessary to retain and update this column in RID.

Decision to be taken:

Delete the “NHM Code” column from RID 3.2.2, Table B.

Related documents:

—

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Table B in RID 3.2.2 is the alphabetical list of dangerous goods. At the request of UIC, this list has for many years contained a column with the NHM code to be used by railway undertakings for each substance. This listing in RID is not legally binding.
2. “NHM” stands for “*Nomenclature harmonisée des marchandises*” (Harmonized Commodity Code), which provides a specific coding system for rail transport. This goods list is managed by UIC in conjunction with the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonised System – HS) of the World Customs Organization (WCO).

II. DEVELOPMENT

3. Since 2025, UIC has completely harmonised the NHM codes with the HS (world-wide system) of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Combined Nomenclature (CN) codes of the European Union. This was a logical step for both the WCO and the railways, as the use and function of the NHM codes for the railways have changed since the widespread liberalisation of the railway market.

III. ISSUE

4. Now that an NHM code for a dangerous substance is the same as the WCO code, and is no longer determined by or dependent upon the railways, the reality is that the WCO code attributable to a dangerous substance comes from the WCO. The NHM column in Table B of RID 3.2.2 is therefore no longer used, making it unnecessary to retain and update this column in future. In light of the above, the members of UIC have decided to ask the RID Committee of Experts standing working group to delete this column from the 2029 edition of RID.

IV. SUGGESTION

5. In 3.2.2, delete the heading “Column ‘NHM-Code’ (Nomenclature Harmonisée Marchandises – Harmonized Goods List)” and the text that follows, including footnote 1.
6. In RID 3.2.2, Table B, delete the fourth column (NHM Code).
7. As the information in this column is not legally binding and was maintained at the request of UIC, deleting it from RID has no effect on RID.