New edition of RID applicable from 1 January 2017

The new provisions of the Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID) entered into force on 1 January 2017. The 2017 edition replaces the 2015 edition. However, in accordance with a general transitional provision, the provisions of RID 2015 may continue to be applied until 30 June 2017.

RID applies to the international carriage of dangerous goods by rail between the 44 existing RID Contracting States in Europe, Asia and North Africa. In the Member States of the European Union, RID also applies to national, as well as international transport.

RID is harmonised with the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, which serve as the basis for all the modal dangerous goods regulations. There is also coordination with the dangerous goods regulations for road (ADR) and inland waterways (ADN). This process ensures simple transport by all transport modes.

RID 2017 contains various new provisions to take account of technical and scientific progress, which contribute to the further improvement of safety in the clean and energy-efficient rail mode.

The Entity in Charge of Maintenance has been included as a new participant in the transport of dangerous goods, whose duty is to ensure the correct maintenance of wagons used for the carriage of dangerous goods.

As in the other transport modes, new UN numbers for polymerizing substances and internal combustion engines have been included.

A new danger label for lithium batteries has been included, which indicates the particular hazards arising from these articles.

Lastly, construction and testing requirements for flexible bulk containers have also been incorporated. It has already been possible to use these containers in maritime transport for two years.

RID 2017, which is published in the official languages of OTIF (German, English and French), is available on OTIF’s website (www.otif.org). During 2017, a Russian version will also be published on the website. Two publishers will also issue printed editions of the English and French versions. The addresses where they can be obtained from are available on OTIF’s website.

Jochen Conrad