



## Work of the OTIF Secretariat during the corona crisis

The Secretariat of OTIF, particularly the dangerous goods department, must make its contribution during the corona crisis in order to resolve problems arising from the crisis.

As no training or tests for dangerous goods safety advisers can be carried out in most RID Contracting States because of the temporary closure of most systemically non-relevant institutions, transitional measures had to be found to maintain the validity of dangerous goods safety advisers' training certificates, despite their having expired.

An arrangement has also been agreed for tank-wagons and tank-containers which cannot undergo the prescribed periodic or intermediate inspections on time during the period in which many workshops are also closed.

Together with the gas industry, it has also been necessary to find a solution to the problem of how gas cylinders for medical gases can continue to be used when they are due for periodic inspection. In so doing, it must be remembered that, owing to the corona crisis, the demand for liquid oxygen has increased fivefold and the demand for oxygen cylinders has increased tenfold. Additional oxygen storage tanks also have to be provided in hospitals. Safety is ensured because before and after the gas cylinders are filled, the safety-related pressure receptacle checks still have to be carried out.

In addition, the Member States are sending the Secretariat various questions of interpretation. For example, to what extent must the dangerous goods regulations be applied when patients with medical equipment are being carried in passenger trains to less overstretched hospitals? As RID already allows complete exemption from the provisions in order to carry out emergency transport for the purpose of saving human life, it is only necessary to take general measures for the safe performance of such transport operations.

