 Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Express Parcels by Rail

Annex IV to Appendix B

to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF)
of 9 May 1980

§ 1 Only such goods as are carried in a specially rapid manner subject to the conditions of an international tariff shall be deemed to be express parcels.

The only goods acceptable as express parcels shall be those which can ordinarily be loaded into the luggage vans of passenger trains. The international tariffs may derogate from this rule.

§ 2 The articles referred to in Article 4 of the Uniform Rules shall not be accepted for carriage as express parcels. The substances and articles enumerated in the RID or those covered by agreements and tariff clauses drawn up in pursuance of Article 5, § 2 of the Uniform Rules shall not be accepted for carriage as express parcels unless that form of carriage is expressly provided for in the RID or such agreements or tariff clauses. The international tariffs shall determine whether other goods may also be treated as unacceptable for carriage or accepted subject to conditions.

§ 3 Express parcels may be handed over for carriage under cover of a document other than that prescribed in accordance with Article 12, § 2 of the Uniform Rules. The form to be used, and the particulars which must or may be inserted therein, shall be determined by the international tariffs. The document must contain the following information:

a) the names of the forwarding and destination stations;
b) the names and addresses of the consignor and of the consignee;
c) the description of the goods;
d) the number of parcels and a description of the packing;
e) a detailed list of the documents required by Customs or other administrative authorities and attached to the consignment note.

§ 4 Express parcels shall be carried by rapid means within the periods prescribed in the international tariffs. The transit periods shall in all cases be less than the periods applicable by virtue of Article 27 of the Uniform Rules.
§ 5 The international tariffs may also provide for derogations from the Uniform Rules other than those specified above. There shall however be no derogation from Articles 35-38, 40-42, 44 and 47-58 of the Uniform Rules.

§ 6 Unless the above provisions and those of the international tariffs require otherwise, the Uniform Rules shall be applicable to the carriage of express parcels.