Information provided by UNECE on matters of interest to IAEA

Transposition of the provisions of SSR6-Rev.1 into the Model Regulations and international agreements dealing with land modes (RID/ADR/ADN)

In 2018, at the 53rd and 54th session of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, IAEA presented a draft list of amendments to the twentieth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations, for alignment with the 2018 Edition of the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (SSR-6, Rev.1). The Sub-Committee adopted the proposed amendments. These amendments were endorsed by the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals at its ninth session (7 December 2018) and they are now reflected in the 21st Revised Edition of the Model Regulations.


At its September 2019 session, the Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Joint Meeting RID/ADR/ADN) adopted the amendments proposed by the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Harmonization of RID/ADR/ADN with the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods with a few editorial changes. See below for more details. This will ensure harmonisation of RID/ADR/ADN applicable as from 1 January 2021 with SSR6-Rev.1.

Ref: ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2019/22 and Add.1 and report ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/156 and Add.2

Work of the Joint Meeting RID/ADR/ADN

At its September 2019 session, the Joint Meeting RID/ADR/ADN:

1. Adopted a new systematic approach to refer to the different versions of the IAEA Regulations in RID/ADR/ADN. This will be also proposed for the Model Regulations (informal document INF.49 from secretariat:


   New definition in 1.2.1 and updates of the text to only refer to “IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material”:

   “IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material” means one of the editions of those Regulations, as follows:

   (a) For the 1985, 1985 (as amended 1990) editions: IAEA Safety Series No. 6

   (b) For the 1996 edition: IAEA Safety Series No. ST-1

   (c) For the 1996 (revised) edition: IAEA Safety Series No. TS-R-1 (ST-1, Revised)

   (d) For the 1996 (as amended 2003), 2005, 2009 editions: IAEA Safety Standards Series No. TS-R-1
2. Adopted a few editorial changes to the French version in text transposed from the IAEA Regulations. This was to ensure grammatical consistency between introductory sentences and sub-paragraphs (use conditional form instead of present).

**Action requested from the TDG Sub-Committee and IAEA**

The same approach will be proposed for the Model Regulations.

As a consequence, it is also suggested to replace “doit s’appliquer” by “soit appliquée” in the French version of the IAEA Regulations § 423 (f), 424 (d) and 427 (e).

3. Adopted a consequential amendment in Chapter 7.5.11 to replace “radiation limits” by “dose rate limits”.

**Action requested from the TDG Sub-Committee and IAEA**

The same change will also be proposed for the Model Regulations and it is proposed to do the same modification in § 566 (b) of the IAEA Regulations.

4. Considered that the French translation of the phrase “and any special precautions or special administrative or operational controls” in paragraph 4.1.9.2.4 (e) (iii) [§ 520 (e) (iii) of the IAEA Regulations] was misleading.

**Action requested from the TDG Sub-Committee and IAEA**

Since this text was coming from the French version of the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material, the Joint Meeting agreed that this issue should be brought to the attention of the TDG Sub-Committee.

It was noted that this phrase also appeared in the English version of 6.4.23.2 (c) [§ 830 (b) of the IAEA Regulations] and was translated differently into French: “toute précaution spéciale ou opération spéciale administrative ou opérationnelle qui seront réalisées en cours de transport” / “précautions spéciales ou opérations spéciales prescrites, administratives ou autres, qui seront réalisées en cours de transport”.

Ref: ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/156 and Add.2

**Matters of interest to IAEA on the agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the TDG Sub-Committee (2-11 December 2019)**

**Document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2019/70 (Secretariat):**

1. Examples of identification marks in 6.4.23.12: consequential amendment missing in the Model Regulations – **No impact on IAEA Regulations**

2. Clarification of the text of 5.1.5.1.3 and cross-reference: clarification of text in the Model Regulations – **No impact on IAEA Regulations**
3. Reference to “safety” in the French text of the Model Regulations: Although IAEA uses “sécurité” to translate “security” in the IAEA Regulations, in the Model Regulations there is a difference between safety and security which are respectively translated as “sécurité” and “sûreté”.

It is proposed to keep the IAEA terminology in terms and phrases such as “indice de sûreté-criticité” and “Normes de sûreté de l’AIEA” used for “criticality safety index” and “IAEA safety standards”. It is also proposed to use “sécurité” in 4.1.9.2.4 (e) (iii) [IAEA § 520], 6.4.23.3 [IAEA § 830], 6.4.23.4 [IAEA § 809] and 7.1.8.2 [§ 522].

**Document ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2019/57 (Switzerland): Transport by post of Class 7 excepted packages with limited activity**

Switzerland submitted to the July 2019 session of the TDG Sub-Committee a document on this issue. At that time, the expert from Switzerland withdrew the document to conduct further consultations with national experts on Class 7 (see the report of the TDG Sub-Committee on its fifty-fifth session, ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/110, paragraph 8). A revised document (ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/2019/57) has been submitted for consideration of the TDG Sub-Committee at its December 2019 session.

**Information related to the periodicity of amendments to the IAEA Regulations**

A revised edition of the UN Model Regulations (the so-called “orange book”) is published every two years (odd years).

The provisions of SSR6-Rev.1 have been incorporated into the 21st revised edition of the UN Model Regulations (“Orange book”) published in 2019. ICAO, IMO and UNECE intergovernmental bodies will complete transposition of the provisions of the 21st revised edition of the Model Regulations into their respective legal instruments during the period 2019-2020, for mandatory application as from 2021.

Following its biennial cycle of work, the TDG Sub-Committee started in 2019, work on proposals of amendments to the 21st revised edition of the orange book. The work cycle will be completed in December 2020, when the Committee of Experts is expected to endorse the amendments to the orange book provisionally adopted by the TDG Sub-Committee during 2019-2020. The amendments endorsed by the Committee at its December 2020 session will be incorporated into the 22nd revised edition of the orange book to be published in 2021.

The working cycle of the TDG Sub-Committee and the cycle of amendments to the orange book is summarized in the figure below.
Figure: Cycle of work of the TDG Sub-Committee and periodicity of amendments to the orange book

When reconsidering the periodicity of amendments to SSR6-Rev.1 attention should be paid to the periodicity of amendments to the orange book, to ensure consistency in the applicability of provisions for transport of radioactive material through all modes of transport.

In case the provisions for transport of radioactive material in SSR6-Rev.1 are revised, the corresponding proposals for amendments to the orange book should be submitted in an official document to the TDG Sub-Committee, for consideration at its last-but-one session of the biennium of work (i.e. June-July session of even years). This means that the proposal should be sent to the secretariat of the TDG Sub-Committee by the deadline of submission of official documents to the June-July session (usually in April of even years).

For instance, if SSR6-Rev.1 is revised during 2019-2020, the deadline for submission of the corresponding related amendments to the 21st revised edition of the orange book will be April 2020. This would allow the TDG Sub-Committee to consider them at its July 2020 session and provide comments or request additional feedback if necessary. If additional feedback or clarifications are needed, there will still be an opportunity to consider and adopt the related proposals at the December 2020 session of the Sub-Committee (the last session of the biennium). All amendments adopted in December 2020 would then be incorporated into the 22nd revised edition of the orange book.

All proposals for amendment submitted after December 2020 will fall within a new biennial period of work (2021-2022) to be taken into account for the 23rd revised edition of the orange book to be published in 2023.