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Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975

(Thirty-second session, 14 and 15 February 2002,
agenda item 8 (c))

Working Party on Customs Questions affecting
Transport

(One-hundredth session, 12-15 February 2002,
agenda item 7 (c) (vi))

**CUSTOMS CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT
OF GOODS UNDER COVER OF TIR CARNETS (TIR CONVENTION 1975)**

Revision of the Convention

Road vehicles considered as heavy or bulky goods

**Possible modification of a comment endorsed by the TIR
Administrative Committee for inclusion into the TIR Handbook**

Note by the UNECE secretariat

1. The TIR Administrative Committee, at its twenty-ninth session (19-20 October 2000), adopted a comment to the newly proposed Article 3 of the Convention (TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/59, Annex 6) which contained, inter alia, the following text:

“Road vehicles considered as heavy or bulky goods

*If road vehicles or special vehicles regarded themselves as heavy or bulky goods are carrying other heavy or bulky goods so that both vehicle and goods at the same time fulfil the conditions set forth in Chapter III (c) of the Convention, only one TIR Carnet is needed bearing at the cover and all vouchers of the TIR Carnet the endorsement set forth in Article 32 of the Convention. If such vehicles are carrying normal goods in the load compartment or in containers, the vehicle or the containers must be previously approved under the conditions set forth in Chapter III (a) and the load compartment or the containers have to be sealed. **Also an additional Carnet has to be used for such transports. Appropriate inscriptions to this effect should be made in each of the TIR Carnets utilized...**”*

2. Following the above session, Estonia submitted Informal Document No. 5 (2001) and document TRANS/WP.30/2001/20 proposing to delete the two sentences of the above comment as indicated in bold in order to avoid a contradiction to Article 17, paragraph 1 of the Convention.

3. On the other hand, the secretariat transmitted document TRANS/WP.30/2001/10 which argued in favour of keeping the comment unchanged due to the specific provisions of the Convention concerning heavy or bulky goods.

4. Having considered both opinions at its ninety-ninth session (23-26 October 2001), the Working Party did not come to a definite conclusion. It became clear, however, that the situation addressed by the above comment is a specific case of a more general issue, namely how many TIR Carnets are required if heavy or bulky goods are transported together with normal goods.

Given different interpretations concerning the procedures for heavy and bulky goods in general (TRANS/WP.30/198, para.98), this issue would need to be considered in-depth.

5. Meanwhile, the amendments to Article 3 of the Convention (Depositary Notification C.N.37.2001.TREATIES-2), which the above comment refers to, will come into force on 12 May 2002 unless objections are raised before 12 February 2002. Therefore, the Administrative Committee, at its thirty-second session (14 and 15 February 2002), will have the last opportunity to modify the comment before its application starts.

6. Taking into account these circumstances, the secretariat proposes the following interim solution:
- delete the two sentences in question from the above comment;
 - if necessary, prepare, at a later stage, a new general comment concerning the number of TIR Carnets required for transport of a mixture of normal goods and heavy or bulky ones.
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