

No. 8940. EUROPEAN AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS BY ROAD (ADR). DONE AT GENEVA ON 30 SEPTEMBER 1957¹

ENTRY INTO FORCE of amendments to marginal 2021.12° (a) of the above-mentioned Agreement

The above-mentioned amendments were proposed by the Government of Spain and circulated by the Secretary-General on 15 April 1974. They came into force on 15 October 1974, in accordance with article 14 (3) of the Agreement.

MARGINAL 2021.12° (a)

Proposed amendment

“Nitrate explosives, in powder form, not covered by 11° or 14° (a) or (c), and consisting essentially of ammonium nitrate *or of a mixture of ammonium nitrate with alkali or alkaline-earth nitrates, or of a mixture of ammonium nitrate with sodium chloride*, or of a mixture of alkali or alkaline-earth nitrates with ammonium chloride, *or of a mixture of ammonium nitrate with alkali or alkaline-earth nitrates and sodium chloride*; or of a mixture of ammonium nitrate with alkali or alkaline-earth nitrates and ammonium chloride. They may contain, in addition, combustible substances (such as wood flour or another vegetable flour or hydrocarbons), *sensitizers (such as finely powdered aluminum)*, aromatic nitro-compounds, nitroglycerine or nitroglycol or a mixture of the two, and inert stabilizing or colouring substances. See also Appendix 1.A, marginal 3105.”

Justification

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to fill the legal gap which currently exists in ADR owing to the fact that there may be, and in fact are, explosive substances consisting of:

- a mixture of ammonium nitrate with alkali or alkaline-earth nitrates;
- a mixture of ammonium nitrate with sodium chloride;
- a mixture of ammonium nitrate with alkali or alkaline-earth nitrates and sodium chloride.

Independently of this legal gap, the proposed amendment is designed to fill the gap resulting from the fact that some of the combinations included in section 14° (a) of this marginal, both in the original version and in the version contained in the proposed amendment, may, and in fact do, contain sensitizing substances such as finely powdered aluminium.

In support of our contention, we give below, as products essential to manufacturing processes in Spain and all other countries of the world, an example of each of the possible mixtures mentioned in the proposed amendment:

- The mixture of ammonium nitrate with alkali or alkaline-earth nitrates is found in explosive slurries with an admixture of powdered aluminium or some other sensitizer, a product developed during the past decade in the United States and currently in use in most European countries.
- Mixtures of ammonium nitrate with sodium chloride are found in many safety powders sensitized with nitroglycerine.
- Mixtures of ammonium nitrate with alkali or alkaline-earth nitrates and sodium chloride are found in some safety explosives now being developed in certain European countries and in the so-called safety slurries being tested in the United States and other western countries.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 619, p. 77; for subsequent actions, see references in Cumulative Indexes Nos. 9 and 11, as well as annex A in volumes 774, 779, 827, 828, 848, 883, 892, 905, 907, 920, 921, 926, 940 and 943.

None of these explosive substances is adequately covered by any other marginal of ADR as it now stands.

Authentic texts of the amendments: English and French.

Registered ex officio on 15 October 1974.
