

Chapter 2.1

General provisions

2.1.1 Introduction

2.1.1.1 The classes of dangerous goods according to RID are the following:

Class 1	Explosive substances and articles
Class 2	Gases
Class 3	Flammable liquids
Class 4.1	Flammable solids, self-reactive substances and solid desensitized explosives
Class 4.2	Substances liable to spontaneous combustion
Class 4.3	Substances which, in contact with water, emit flammable gases
Class 5.1	Oxidizing substances
Class 5.2	Organic peroxides
Class 6.1	Toxic substances
Class 6.2	Infectious substances
Class 7	Radioactive material
Class 8	Corrosive substances
Class 9	Miscellaneous dangerous substances and articles

2.1.1.2 Each entry in the different classes has been assigned a UN number. The following types of entries are used:

- A. Single entries for well defined substances or articles including entries for substances covering several isomers, e.g.:
- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| UN No. 1090 | ACETONE |
| UN No. 1104 | AMYL ACETATES |
| UN No. 1194 | ETHYL NITRITE SOLUTION |
- B. Generic entries for a well defined group of substances or articles, which are not n.o.s. entries, e.g.:
- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| UN No. 1133 | ADHESIVES |
| UN No. 1266 | PERFUMERY PRODUCTS |
| UN No. 2757 | CARBAMATE PESTICIDE, SOLID, TOXIC |
| UN No. 3101 | ORGANIC PEROXIDE TYPE B, LIQUID |
- C. Specific n.o.s. entries covering a group of substances or articles of a particular chemical or technical nature, not otherwise specified, e.g.:
- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| UN No. 1477 | NITRATES, INORGANIC, N.O.S. |
| UN No. 1987 | ALCOHOLS, N.O.S. |
- D. General n.o.s. entries covering a group of substances or articles having one or more dangerous properties, not otherwise specified, e.g.:
- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| UN No. 1325 | FLAMMABLE SOLID, ORGANIC, N.O.S. |
| UN No. 1993 | FLAMMABLE LIQUID, N.O.S. |

The entries defined under B., C. and D. are defined as collective entries.

2.1.1.3 For packing purposes, substances other than those of Classes 1, 2, 5.2, 6.2 and 7, and other than self-reactive substances of Class 4.1 are assigned to packing groups in accordance with the degree of danger they present:

- Packing group I: Substances presenting high danger;
- Packing group II: Substances presenting medium danger;
- Packing group III: Substances presenting low danger.

The packing group(s) to which a substance is assigned is (are) indicated in Table A of Chapter 3.2.

2.1.2 Principles of classification

2.1.2.1 The dangerous goods covered by the heading of a class are defined on the basis of their properties according to sub-section 2.2.x.1 of the relevant class. Assignment of dangerous goods to a class and a packing group is made according to the criteria mentioned in the same sub-section 2.2.x.1. Assignment of one or several subsidiary risk(s) to a dangerous substance or article is made according to the criteria of the class or classes corresponding to those risks, as mentioned in the appropriate sub-section(s) 2.2.x.1.

2.1.2.2 All dangerous goods entries are listed in Table A of Chapter 3.2 in the numerical order of their UN Number. This table contains relevant information on the goods listed, such as name, class, packing group(s), label(s) to be affixed, packing and carriage provisions.

NOTE: An alphabetical list of these entries is given in table B of Chapter 3.2.

2.1.2.3 A substance may contain technical impurities (for example those deriving from the production process) or additives for stability or other purposes that do not affect their classification. However, a substance mentioned by name, i.e. listed as a single entry in Table A of Chapter 3.2, containing technical impurities or additives for stability or other purposes affecting its classification shall be considered a solution or mixture (see 2.1.3.3).

2.1.2.4 Dangerous goods which are listed or defined in sub-section 2.2.x.2 of each class are not to be accepted for carriage.

2.1.2.5 Goods not mentioned by name, i.e. goods not listed as single entries in Table A of Chapter 3.2 and not listed or defined in one of the above-mentioned sub-sections 2.2.x.2 shall be assigned to the relevant class in accordance with the procedure of section 2.1.3. In addition, the subsidiary risk (if any) and the packing group (if any) shall be determined. Once the class, subsidiary risk (if any) and packing group (if any) have been established the relevant UN number shall be determined. The decision trees in sub-sections 2.2.x.3 (list of collective entries) at the end of each class indicate the relevant parameters for selecting the relevant collective entry (UN number). In all cases the most specific collective entry covering the properties of the substance or article shall be selected, according to the hierarchy indicated in 2.1.1.2 by the letters B, C and D respectively. If the substance or article cannot be classified under entries of type B or C according to 2.1.1.2, then, and only then shall it be classified under an entry of type D.

2.1.2.6 On the basis of the test procedures of Chapter 2.3 and the criteria set out in sub-sections 2.2.x.1 of classes when it is so specified, it may be determined that a substance, solution or mixture of a certain class, mentioned by name in Table A of Chapter 3.2, does not meet the criteria of that class. In such a case, the substance, solution or mixture is deemed not to belong to that class.

2.1.2.7 For the purposes of classification, substances with a melting point or initial melting point of 20 °C or lower at a pressure of 101.3 kPa shall be considered to be liquids. A viscous substance for which a specific melting point cannot be determined shall be subjected to the ASTM D 4359-90 test or to the test for determining fluidity (penetrometer test) prescribed in 2.3.4.

2.1.3 Classification of substances, including solutions and mixtures (such as preparations and wastes), not mentioned by name

2.1.3.1 Substances including solutions and mixtures not mentioned by name shall be classified according to their degree of danger on the basis of the criteria mentioned in sub-section 2.2.x.1 of the various classes. The danger(s) presented by a substance shall be determined on the basis of its physical and chemical characteristics and physiological properties. Such characteristics and properties shall also be taken into account when such experience leads to a more stringent assignment.

2.1.3.2 A substance not mentioned by name in Table A of Chapter 3.2 presenting a single hazard shall be classified in the relevant class under a collective entry listed in sub-section 2.2.x.3 of that class.

2.1.3.3 A solution or mixture composed of a single predominant substance mentioned by name in Table A of Chapter 3.2 and one or more substances not subject to RID or traces of one or more substances mentioned by name in Table A of Chapter 3.2, shall be assigned the UN number and proper shipping name of the predominant substance mentioned by name in Table A of Chapter 3.2 unless:

- (a) The solution or mixture is mentioned by name in Table A of Chapter 3.2;
- (b) The name and description of the substance mentioned by name in Table A of Chapter 3.2 specifically indicate that they apply only to the pure substance;
- (c) The class, classification code, packing group, or physical state of the solution or mixture is different from that of the substance mentioned by name in Table A of Chapter 3.2; or
- (d) The hazard characteristics and properties of the solution or mixture necessitate emergency response measures that are different from those required for the substance mentioned by name in Table A of Chapter 3.2.

In those other cases, except the one described in (a), the solution or mixture shall be classified as a substance not mentioned by name in the relevant class under a collective entry listed in sub-section 2.2.x.3 of that class taking account of the subsidiary risks presented by that solution or mixture, if any, unless the solution or mixture does not meet the criteria of any class, in which case it is not subject to RID.

2.1.3.4 Solutions and mixtures containing a substance belonging to one of the entries mentioned in 2.1.3.4.1 or 2.1.3.4.2 shall be classified in accordance with the provisions of these paragraphs.

- 2.1.3.4.1** Solutions and mixtures containing one of the following substances mentioned by name shall always be classified under the same entry as the substance they contain, provided they do not have the hazard characteristics as indicated in 2.1.3.5.3:
- Class 3
 - UN 1921 PROPYLENEIMINE, STABILIZED
 - UN 3064 NITROGLYCERIN SOLUTION IN ALCOHOL with more than 1% but not more than 5% nitroglycerin
 - Class 6.1
 - UN 1051 HYDROGEN CYANIDE, STABILIZED, containing less than 3% water
 - UN 1185 ETHYLENEIMINE, STABILIZED
 - UN 1259 NICKEL CARBONYL
 - UN 1613 HYDROCYANIC ACID, AQUEOUS SOLUTION (HYDROGEN CYANIDE, AQUEOUS SOLUTION), with not more than 20% hydrogen cyanide
 - UN 1614 HYDROGEN CYANIDE, STABILIZED, containing not more than 3% water and absorbed in a porous inert material
 - UN 1994 IRON PENTACARBONYL
 - UN 2480 METHYL ISOCYANATE
 - UN 2481 ETHYL ISOCYANATE
 - UN 3294 HYDROGEN CYANIDE, SOLUTION IN ALCOHOL, with not more than 45% hydrogen cyanide
 - Class 8
 - UN 1052 HYDROGEN FLUORIDE, ANHYDROUS
 - UN 1744 BROMINE or UN 1744 BROMINE SOLUTION
 - UN 1790 HYDROFLUORIC ACID with more than 85% hydrogen fluoride
 - UN 2576 PHOSPHORUS OXYBROMIDE, MOLTEN
- 2.1.3.4.2** Solutions and mixtures containing a substance belonging to one of the following entries of Class 9:
- UN 2315 POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS, LIQUID or
 - UN 3432 POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS, SOLID
 - UN 3151 POLYHALOGENATED BIPHENYLS, LIQUID or
 - UN 3151 POLYHALOGENATED TERPHENYLS, LIQUID
 - UN 3152 POLYHALOGENATED BIPHENYLS, SOLID or
 - UN 3152 POLYHALOGENATED TERPHENYLS, SOLID
- shall always be classified under the same entry of Class 9, provided that:
- they do not contain any additional dangerous component other than components of packing group III of classes 3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 6.1 or 8; and
 - they do not have the hazard characteristics as indicated in 2.1.3.5.3.
- 2.1.3.5** Substances not mentioned by name in Table A of Chapter 3.2, having more than one hazard characteristic and solutions or mixtures containing several dangerous substances shall be classified under a collective entry (see 2.1.2.5) and packing group of the appropriate class in accordance with their hazard characteristics. Such classification according to the hazard characteristics shall be carried out as follows:
- 2.1.3.5.1** The physical and chemical characteristics and physiological properties shall be determined by measurement or calculation and the substance, solution or mixture shall be classified according to the criteria mentioned in sub-section 2.2.x.1 of the various classes.
- 2.1.3.5.2** If this determination is not possible without disproportionate cost or effort (as for some kinds of wastes), the substance, solution or mixture shall be classified in the class of the component presenting the major hazard.
- 2.1.3.5.3** If the hazard characteristics of the substance, solution or mixture fall within more than one class or group of substances listed below then the substance, solution or mixture shall be classified in the class or group of substances corresponding to the major hazard on the basis of the following order of precedence:
- (a) Material of Class 7 (apart from radioactive material in excepted packages for which special provision 290 of Chapter 3.3 applies, where the other hazardous properties take precedence);
 - (b) Substances of Class 1;
 - (c) Substances of Class 2;
 - (d) Liquid desensitized explosives of Class 3;
 - (e) Self-reactive substances and solid desensitized explosives of Class 4.1;
 - (f) Pyrophoric substances of Class 4.2;

- (g) Substances of Class 5.2;
- (h) Substances of Class 6.1 or Class 3 which, on the basis of their inhalation toxicity, are to be classified under Packing group I (Substances meeting the classification criteria of Class 8 and having an inhalation toxicity of dust and mist (LC₅₀) in the range of Packing group I and a toxicity through oral ingestion or dermal contact only in the range of Packing group III or less, shall be allocated to Class 8);
- (i) Infectious substances of Class 6.2.

2.1.3.5.4 If the hazard characteristics of the substance fall within more than one class or group of substances not listed in 2.1.3.5.3 above, the substance shall be classified in accordance with the same procedure but the relevant class shall be selected according to the precedence of hazards table in 2.1.3.10.

2.1.3.5.5 If the substance to be carried is a waste, with a composition that is not precisely known, its assignment to a UN number and packing group in accordance with 2.1.3.5.2 may be based on the consignor's knowledge of the waste, including all available technical and safety data as requested by safety and environmental legislation in force¹.

In case of doubt, the highest danger level shall be taken.

If however, on the basis of the knowledge of the composition of the waste and the physical and chemical properties of the identified components, it is possible to demonstrate that the properties of the waste do not correspond to the properties of the packing group I level, the waste may be classified by default in the most appropriate n.o.s. entry of packing group II.

This procedure may not be used for wastes containing substances mentioned in 2.1.3.5.3, substances of Class 4.3, substances of the case mentioned in 2.1.3.7 or substances which are not accepted for carriage in accordance with 2.2.x.2.

2.1.3.6 The most specific applicable collective entry (see 2.1.2.5) shall always be used, i.e. a general n.o.s. entry shall only be used if a generic entry or a specific n.o.s. entry cannot be used.

2.1.3.7 Solutions and mixtures of oxidizing substances or substances with an oxidizing subsidiary risk may have explosive properties. In such a case they are not to be accepted for carriage unless they meet the requirements for Class 1.

2.1.3.8 Substances of classes 1 to 9, other than those assigned to UN Nos. 3077 or 3082, meeting the criteria of 2.2.9.1.10 are additionally to their hazards of classes 1 to 9 considered to be environmentally hazardous substances. Other substances meeting the criteria of 2.2.9.1.10 are to be assigned to UN Nos. 3077 or 3082 as appropriate.

2.1.3.9 Wastes which do not meet the criteria for classification in classes 1 to 9 but are covered by the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal may be carried under UN Nos. 3077 or 3082.

¹ Such legislation is for instance the Commission Decision 2000/532/EC of 3 May 2000 replacing Decision 94/3/EC establishing a list of wastes pursuant to Article 1(a) of Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste (replaced by the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council 2006/12/EC (Official Journal of the European Union No. L 114 of 27 April 2006, page 9)) and Council Decision 94/904/EC establishing a list of hazardous wastes pursuant to Article 1(4) of Council Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous wastes (Official Journal of the European Communities No. L 226 of 6 September 2000, page 3).

2.1.3.10 Table of precedence of hazards

Class and packing group	4.1 II	4.1 III	4.2 II	4.2 III	4.3, I	4.3 II	4.3 III	5.1 I	5.1 II	5.1 III	6.1 I DERMAL	6.1 I ORAL	6.1 II	6.1 III	8 I	8 II	8 III	9
3 I	SOL LIQ 4.1 3 I	SOL LIQ 4.1 3 I	SOL LIQ 4.2 3 I	SOL LIQ 4.2 3 I	4.3 I	4.3 I	4.3 I	SOL LIQ 5.1 I 3 I	SOL LIQ 5.1 I 3 I	SOL LIQ 5.1 I 3 I	3 I	3 I	3 I	3 I	3 I	3 I	3 I	3 I
3 II	SOL LIQ 4.1 3 II	SOL LIQ 4.1 3 II	SOL LIQ 4.2 3 II	SOL LIQ 4.2 3 II	4.3 I	4.3 II	4.3 II	SOL LIQ 5.1 I 3 I	SOL LIQ 5.1 II 3 II	SOL LIQ 5.1 II 3 II	3 I	3 I	3 II	3 II	8 I	3 II	3 II	3 II
3 III	SOL LIQ 4.1 3 II	SOL LIQ 4.1 3 III	SOL LIQ 4.2 3 II	SOL LIQ 4.2 3 III	4.3, I	4.3 II	4.3 III	SOL LIQ 5.1 I 3 I	SOL LIQ 5.1 II 3 II	SOL LIQ 5.1 III 3 III	6.1 I	6.1 I	6.1 II	3 III *)	8 I	8 II	3 III	3 III
4.1 II			4.2 II	4.2 II	4.3 I	4.3 II	4.3 II	5.1 I	4.1 II	4.1 II	6.1 I	6.1 I	SOL LIQ 4.1 II 6.1 II	SOL LIQ 4.1 II 6.1 II	8 I	SOL LIQ 4.1 II 8 II	SOL LIQ 4.1 II 8 II	4.1 II
4.1 III			4.2 II	4.2 III	4.3 I	4.3 II	4.3 III	5.1 I	4.1 II	4.1 III	6.1 I	6.1 I	6.1 II	SOL LIQ 4.1 III 6.1 III	8 I	8 II	SOL LIQ 4.1 III 8 III	4.1 III
4.2 II					4.3 I	4.3 II	4.3 II	5.1 I	4.2 II	4.2 II	6.1 I	6.1 I	4.2 II	4.2 II	8 I	4.2 II	4.2 II	4.2 II
4.2 III					4.3 I	4.3 II	4.3 III	5.1 I	5.1 II	4.2 III	6.1 I	6.1 I	6.1 II	4.2 III	8 I	8 II	4.2 III	4.2 III
4.3 I								5.1 I	4.3 I	4.3 I	6.1 I	4.3 I	4.3 I	4.3 I	4.3 I	4.3 I	4.3 I	4.3 I
4.3 II								5.1 I	4.3 II	4.3 II	6.1 I	4.3 I	4.3 II	4.3 II	8 I	4.3 II	4.3 II	4.3 II
4.3 III								5.1 I	5.1 II	4.3 III	6.1 I	6.1 I	6.1 II	4.3 III	8 I	8 II	4.3 III	4.3 III
5.1 I											5.1 I	5.1 I	5.1 I	5.1 I	5.1 I	5.1 I	5.1 I	5.1 I
5.1 II											6.1 I	5.1 I	5.1 II	5.1 II	8 I	5.1 II	5.1 II	5.1 II
5.1 III											6.1 I	6.1 I	6.1 II	5.1 III	8 I	8 II	5.1 III	5.1 III
6.1 I DERMAL															SOL LIQ 6.1 I 8 I	6.1 I	6.1 I	6.1 I
6.1 I ORAL															SOL LIQ 6.1 I 8 I	6.1 I	6.1 I	6.1 I
6.1 II INHAL															SOL LIQ 6.1 I 8 I	6.1 II	6.1 II	6.1 II
6.1 II DERMAL															SOL LIQ 6.1 I 8 I	SOL LIQ 6.1 II 8 II	6.1 II	6.1 II
6.1 II ORAL			SOL = Solid substances and mixtures LIQ = Liquid substances, mixtures and solutions												8.1	SOL LIQ 6.1 II 8 II	6.1 II	6.1 II
6.1 III			DERMAL = Dermal toxicity												8 I	8 II	8 III	6.1 III
8 I			ORAL = Oral toxicity															8 I
8 II			INHAL = Inhalation toxicity															8 II
8 III			*) Class 6.1 for pesticides															8 III

NOTE 1: Examples to explain the use of the table

Classification of a single substance

Description of the substance to be classified:

An amine not mentioned by name meeting the criteria for Class 3, packing group II as well as those for Class 8, packing group I.

Procedure:

The intersection of line 3 II with column 8 I gives 8 I. This amine has therefore to be classified in Class 8 under UN No. 2734 AMINES, LIQUID, CORROSIVE, FLAMMABLE, N.O.S. or UN No. 2734 POLYAMINES, LIQUID, CORROSIVE, FLAMMABLE, N.O.S., packing group I.

Classification of a mixture

Description of the mixture to be classified:

Mixture consisting of a flammable liquid classified in Class 3, packing group III, a toxic substance in Class 6.1, packing group II and a corrosive substance in Class 8, packing group I.

Procedure:

The intersection of line 3 III with column 6.1 II gives 6.1 II.

The intersection of line 6.1 II with column 8 I gives 8 I LIQ.

This mixture not further defined has therefore to be classified in Class 8 under UN No. 2922 CORROSIVE LIQUID, TOXIC, N.O.S., packing group I.

2: Examples for the classification of mixtures and solutions under a class and a packing group:

A phenol solution of Class 6.1, (II), in benzene of Class 3, (II) is to be classified in Class 3, (II); this solution is to be classified under UN No. 1992 FLAMMABLE LIQUID, TOXIC, N.O.S., Class 3, (II), by virtue of the toxicity of the phenol.

A solid mixture of sodium arsenate of Class 6.1, (II) and sodium hydroxide of Class 8, (II) is to be classified under UN No. 3290 TOXIC SOLID, CORROSIVE, INORGANIC, N.O.S., in Class 6.1 (II).

A solution of crude or refined naphthalene of Class 4.1, (III) in petrol of Class 3, (II), is to be classified under UN No. 3295 HYDROCARBONS, LIQUID, N.O.S. in Class 3, (II).

A mixture of hydrocarbons of Class 3, (III), and of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) of Class 9, (II), is to be classified under UN No. 2315 POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS, LIQUID or UN No. 3432 POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS, SOLID in Class 9, (II).

A mixture of propyleneimine of Class 3, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) of Class 9, (II), is to be classified under UN No. 1921 PROPYLENEIMINE, INHIBITED in Class 3.

2.1.4 Classification of samples

2.1.4.1 When the class of a substance is uncertain and it is being carried for further testing, a tentative class, proper shipping name and UN number shall be assigned on the basis of the consignor's knowledge of the substance and application of:

- (a) the classification criteria of Chapter 2.2; and
- (b) the requirements of this Chapter.

The most severe packing group possible for the proper shipping name chosen shall be used.

Where this provision is used the proper shipping name shall be supplemented with the word "SAMPLE" (e.g., "FLAMMABLE LIQUID, N.O.S., SAMPLE"). In certain instances, where a specific proper shipping name is provided for a sample of a substance considered to meet certain classification criteria (e.g., GAS SAMPLE, NON-PRESSURIZED, FLAMMABLE, UN No. 3167) that proper shipping name shall be used. When an N.O.S. entry is used to carry the sample, the proper shipping name need not be supplemented with the technical name as required by special provision 274 of Chapter 3.3.

2.1.4.2 Samples of the substance shall be carried in accordance with the requirements applicable to the tentative assigned proper shipping name provided:

- (a) The substance is not considered to be a substance not accepted for carriage by sub-sections 2.2.x.2 of Chapter 2.2 or by Chapter 3.2;
- (b) The substance is not considered to meet the criteria for Class 1 or considered to be an infectious substance or a radioactive material;
- (c) The substance is in compliance with 2.2.41.1.15 or 2.2.52.1.9 if it is a self-reactive substance or an organic peroxide, respectively;
- (d) The sample is carried in a combination packaging with a net mass per package not exceeding 2.5 kg; and
- (e) The sample is not packed together with other goods.