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Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Geneva, 10-14 September 2001)

TABLE 3.4.6

**QUANTITY RATIOS BETWEEN INNER AND OUTER PACKAGINGS
FOR LIMITED QUANTITIES OF SOLIDS**

Transmitted by the Government of Austria*

The secretariat has received from the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) the proposal reproduced below.*

In the present "a marginals" the permissible maximum quantities for solid substances per inner packaging and per package were given as a quantity ratio corresponding to a whole number (e.g. 6 kg per inner packaging and 24 kg per package = 1:4).

The new table 3.4.6 gives a permissible maximum content per inner packaging and a maximum permitted gross mass per package for the LQ codes for solid substances.

* Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT-III/2001/30.

The result is that, in the example selected, it is only possible to use the permissible maximum quantities per inner packaging and per package, keeping the present ratio, when the permissible maximum quantity according to the table has not been used completely. The real permissible maximum quantity in this case, per inner packaging, should rather be calculated according to the following formula:

$$\frac{BA - TA - 4 \times TI}{4}$$

where:

BA: permissible maximum gross mass per package

TA: tare mass of the outer packaging

TI: tare mass of each inner packaging

It is questionable whether users are aware of these facts.

In order to solve this problem, in principle two options could be envisaged:

1. To keep the present regulations in accordance with the “a” marginals, i.e. amending the table by giving the permissible maximum content for the relevant LQ for solid substances, and also for outer packagings, or
2. To keep the table, but explaining the above problem in the form of a Note, so as to avoid divergences among users.

The Joint Meeting is requested to discuss the question.
