

Technical TIR Seminar
Training Seminar on the Approval and Control of TIR Vehicles
24 September 2007, Geneva (Switzerland)

CONCLUSIONS

The UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the TIR Executive Board, organized a capacity building training seminar on the approval and control of TIR vehicles at Palais des Nations, on 24 September 2007. About 100 representatives from Customs authorities, ministries of transport and the transport industry attended.

During the full day event, participants were trained on how to properly interpret and apply the technical standards of construction and approval required under the TIR Convention. Examples of vehicles that do not comply with the relevant technical provisions were presented, and delegates received hands-on instructions on how to check vehicles and loading units for compliance.

The danger of using non-compliant vehicles and containers was highlighted as a potential source of great damage to the TIR system, which is considered one of the most successful transit and transport systems in the world.

The seminar called on competent national authorities to recognize the importance of technical approval and inspection and to verify and further improve their existing national standards of technical approval and inspection of TIR vehicles. Extensive staff training, by the competent technical authorities and Customs, to correctly apply the TIR Convention, was considered a priority.

Sufficient resources should be devoted to continuous training, as TIR vehicles must be regularly inspected to ensure continued compliance with the requirements. The seminar also called on transport operators and vehicle manufacturers to raise awareness among vehicle owners and potential buyers of the technical requirements for TIR vehicles.

Annually, more than 3 million international transports are carried out utilizing the TIR Convention by more than 40,000 transport operators in the 55 countries, where the TIR system is operational. This Convention enables cross-border international movement of goods under guarantee through the use of the commonly accepted Customs transit document, the TIR Carnet, with limited intervention by Customs of intermediate transit countries. More information about the TIR Convention is available from: <http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/tir/welcome.html>.