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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the  
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods  
(Geneva, 9-13 September 2002)

NEW PROPOSALS

Safety advisor

Comments on sub-section 1.8.3.16

Transmitted by the Government of Belgium \*/

**1. Introduction**

Sub-section 1.8.3.16 states that the certificate for a safety advisor is extended for five years when its holder has followed refresher courses or passed an examination during the final year before its expiry. The refresher course and the examination shall be approved by the competent authority.

There is a need to improve this sub-section, in order to reach a sufficient level of harmonisation between the Contracting Parties.

**2. Basic principle**

Sub-section 1.8.3.16 implies that the holder of a certificate may choose between a refresher course and an examination. This procedure is quite different from the one in use in ADR for the drivers.

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\*/ Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT/III/2002/21.

Belgium is of the opinion that at this moment the Joint Meeting should decide whether this principle is to be maintained (a refresher course or an examination) or changed (to a refresher course and an examination).

**3. Measures to improve harmonisation**

- a. The refresher courses and examination mentioned in 1.8.3.16 need not fulfill any requirements (contrary to the initial ones). It is self-evident that :
    - if the Joint Meeting is of the opinion that a a refresher course and an examination are needed, we find ourselves in the same situation as initially and in both cases the same or comparable requirements are to be imposed ;
    - if a refresher course or an examination is sufficient, the same or comparable requirements as for the initial examination are to be imposed on the refresher examination. But as the course would stand on its own, without the control of an examination, it would have to be defined with much more detail (e.g. its minimum duration).
  - b. The criteria for passing the examination (percentage of points obtained) are not fixed. Should this be envisaged (for both the initial and the refresher examination) ?
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