

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

(Bern, 18-22 March 2002)

**SAFETY ADVISOR**

Comments on sub-section 1.8.3.16

Information paper of Belgium

**1. Introduction**

Sub-section 1.8.3.16 states that the certificate of 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.

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 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) ?