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Working Party on the Transport of
Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations
annexed to the European Agreement concerning
the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods
by Inland Waterways (ADN)*
(Fifth session, 21-25 January 2002,
agenda item 5)

**MATTERS RELATING TO THE RECOGNITION OF CLASSIFICATION
SOCIETIES**

**Report of the Ad hoc Meeting of Experts on the establishment of guidelines
for the recognition of classification societies under ADN
(Nuremberg/Regensburg, 31 October and 1 November 2001)****

* This meeting is organized jointly by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine.

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1. Draft cover page for the application for the recognition of a classification society under the ADN Convention.
2. Draft rules of procedure for the Committee of Experts.

ATTENDANCE

1. The Ad hoc Meeting of Experts on the establishment of guidelines for the recognition of classification societies under the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways was held on 31 October and 1 November 2001 on board the "Bayern" on the Main-Danube Canal between Nuremberg and Regensburg at the invitation of the Government of Germany. Representatives of the following countries took part in its work: Austria; Bulgaria; Czech Republic; France; Germany; Hungary; Netherlands, Poland; Slovakia. The Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) was represented. The following non-governmental organization was also represented: International Association of Classification Societies (IACS).

2. The secretariat was ensured jointly by Germany and the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The Meeting of Experts adopted the agenda as proposed by Germany.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

4. Mr. H. Rein (Germany) was elected Chairman.

5. On the proposal of the Chairman, the preparation of the report was entrusted to Mr. Beck (Germany) and Mr. Fessmann (CCNR).

GUIDELINES FOR THE RECOGNITION OF CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES UNDER ADN

6. The Meeting noted that the basic work on the recognition of classification societies needed to be completed before ADN entered into force. The decision concerning registration in the list of classification societies recommended for recognition could be taken only by the Administrative Committee.

7. The Chairman set out the tasks of the Meeting: establishment of the rules whereby classification societies would be recognized and the documents to accompany the application. He referred to the report of the fourth session: document TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/9, paragraphs 27 to 32.

8. The Meeting noted that classification societies must provide the same information and documents irrespective of the Contracting Party to which they applied. Agreement was reached on a common cover page (annex 1) for the application.

9. The Meeting noted that the question of the rejection of recognition was important and required consideration at the next meeting.

10. In the opinion of the Meeting, an audit of the classification societies was, in principle, unnecessary. In the event of doubt, an audit could be called if a majority of the Committee of Experts so decided. The audit would be at the expense of the classification society applying for recognition.

ANNEX C, Chapter 2 of ADN

Re 2.2.1

11. The Meeting noted that a classification society could only submit its application to a single State. Since no Contracting Parties existed prior to the entry into force of ADN, the Meeting recommended that in the meantime applications should be submitted to a signatory or member State. At the request of IACS, the Meeting recommended that the investigation of an application for recognition should be completed within a maximum of six months. Before transmitting the dossier, the competent authority to which the application had been submitted should check that it was complete and plausible.

Re 2.2.2

12. The Meeting proposed that, pending the entry into force of ADN, the Committee of Experts should comprise all signatory and member States. One expert and one alternate should be appointed per State. They must be part of the Administration of the State in question. The Committee of Experts so composed should consider all applications. The secretariat of the Committee of Experts should be ensured by a signatory State in cooperation with the CCNR secretariat. A recommendation for rules of procedure for this Committee of Experts was attached as annex 2. The Meeting proposed that the first meeting of the Committee of Experts should be organized by Germany in cooperation with the CCNR secretariat.

Re 2.3

13. The documents to be provided in accordance with the conditions and criteria to be met were listed on the cover page (annex 1).

Re 2.3.1 and 2.3.2

14. The Committee noted that in order to justify extensive knowledge of and experience in the assessment of the design and construction of inland navigation vessels a period of approximately 10 years prior to the application should be taken into consideration. Extracts from activity reports could be used for this purpose. The information should not be limited to a single type of vessel (see annex 1 (a)). The rules of construction and classification should further be submitted in two languages (the language of the State to which the application was submitted and English). In the opinion of the Meeting the term “published” should not be taken to mean the printed version only. Other forms of publication, such as, for example, availability on the Internet, were admissible (see annex 1 (b) and (d)).

Re 2.3.3

15. The opinion of the Meeting was that evidence of independence should be furnished by the ownership situation (listing of holders of more than 10% of proprietary interest). In the event of public ownership, a more detailed description should be provided, to clarify how independence was guaranteed. The source of income could be derived from the activity report. Additional evidence should only be required in the event of doubt (see annex 1 (f)).

Re 2.3.4

16. See annex 1 (h).

Re 2.3.5

17. The good reputation of the society must be documented by references. Proof of the professional abilities of the experts must be provided by a description of their training and their continuing training (see also annex 1 (k) and (l)).

Re 2.3.6

18. The classification society submitting the application must give an overview of its structural organization. As regards the sufficient numbers of professional staff and engineers the Meeting noted that these should not be solely salaried staff. They could also be staff and engineers with other contractual ties to the society. The contractual situation should be described in such cases (see annex 1 (j) and (k)).

Re 2.3.7

19. As regards the code of ethics, the Meeting considered that it should be in line with the IACS code of ethics. The Association was invited to make its code available at the next meeting.

Re 2.3.8

20. The Meeting noted that the application must be accompanied by a certificate in keeping with ISO 9001, EN 29001 and EN 45004. Reference could be made to more recent standards instead of the foregoing. Certification must be carried out by independent auditors (see annex 1 (g)).

Re 2.4

21. See the declaration on the cover page (annex 1).

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

21. The Meeting adopted the report on its meeting and its annexes on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

Annex 1

Draft cover page

(prior to the entry into force of the ADN Agreement)

Application for recognition as a classification society for inland navigation vessels in accordance with ADN

1. Applicant
2. Competent authority
3. Contracting Party/signatory State/member State*
4. Annexes
 - (a) Report of inland navigation activity over a period of approximately 10 years.
 - (b) Rules of the applicant concerning the construction and classification of inland navigation vessels.
 - (c) Evidence of the updating and improvement of the rules and regulations of construction and classification.
 - (d) Details of how the rules and requirements may be obtained and of their publication.
 - (e) Details of how and when the register of vessels was/will be published.
 - (f) Evidence of the situation of ownership and commercial independence (details of holders of more than 10% of proprietary interest).
 - (g) Internal quality system certificate in accordance with ISO 9001, EN 29001 and EN 45004).
 - (h) List of branches with the power and the capacity to decide and act in other Contracting Parties/signatory States/member States.
 - (i) Description of the organizational structure.

* Delete as appropriate.

- (j) List of active experts in the Contracting Parties/signatory States/member States, indicating their contractual relationship with the classification society.
- (k) Description of the training and continuing training of the experts.
- (l) References (customers).

5. Declaration

- I. We (the applicant classification society) undertake, in the event of divergence between our rules and the requirements of the ADN Agreement, to apply those of the ADN Agreement.
- II. We (the applicant classification society) undertake to cooperate with the other classification societies recommended for recognition.

.....

Place, date

.....

Signature

Annex 2

Draft rules of procedure of the Committee of Experts

1. The rules of procedure of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe are applicable in principle.
2. The meetings of the Committee of Experts shall take place at latest three months after the deposit of an application.
3. Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority vote. The votes shall be entered in the report.
4. The Committee of Experts shall prepare a report registering its recommendation to accept or reject the application. This recommendation shall be duly justified.

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