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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics****Fifty-sixth session**

Geneva, 21–22 October 2013

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**Revision of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for
packing of intermodal transport units (cargo transport units)****Progress made by the Group of Experts for the revision of
the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for Packing of Cargo
Transport Units****Note by the secretariat****I. Introduction**

1. This document has been prepared in line with the output/activities of cluster 6: Intermodal transport and logistics of the programme of work of the transport subprogramme for 2012–2013 (ECE/TRANS/2012/9 and Rev.1) as adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on 1 March 2012 and 28 February 2013 respectively (ECE/TRANS/224 para. 93, ECE/TRANS/236, para. 72).

2. At its fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions, the Working Party approved activities of a group composed of experts from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) with aim of revising guidelines for packing of cargo transport units and upgrading them to a code of practice (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2010/4 and ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2011/5).

3. In November 2012, the Working Party took note of document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2012/2 providing detailed information on the second session of the Group of Experts held on 19–20 April 2012.

4. It was also informed by Mr. Bill Brassington, consultant to the ILO, about the main outcome of the third session of the Group of Experts (15–17 October 2012) and the preparation of a draft code of practice for review by the relevant bodies of the three organizations (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/131, paras. 54–59).

5. This document provides additional information on the third session and its follow-up and summarizes activities to be undertaken for finalizing the code of practice.

II. Third session of the Group of Experts

6. The Group of Experts met in Geneva from 15 to 17 October 2012. The session was chaired by Mr. Christopher Welsh (Global Shippers' Forum). Mr. Jens Hügel (International Road Transport Union) and Mr. Makoto Urata (International Transport Workers Federation) served as Vice-Chairs.

7. Experts from the following countries were present: Belgium, Finland, Germany, Japan, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. Experts from the following non-governmental organizations were also present: Bundesverband Güterkraftverkehr Logistik und Entsorgung (German Association of Road Haulage, Logistics and Disposal (BGL), European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC), European Shippers Council (ESC), FNV Trade Union, Global Shippers' Forum (GSF), International Cargo Handling and Coordination Organization (ICHCA), International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA), International Road Transport Union (IRU), International Transport Workers Federation (ITF), MariTerm AB and World Shipping Council (WSC), and ETS Consulting.

9. The secretariats of ILO, IMO and UNECE were also represented.

10. The Group of Experts reviewed the second draft of the code of practice prepared by the secretariat, taking into account written comments and proposals of amendments submitted by the experts from Germany, Japan, Slovakia, Sweden, the United States of America and CEFIC.

11. The Group of Experts made a considerable number of amendments to the second draft, including re-arrangements of chapters and annexes with the aim of shortening the core text.

12. Due to a lack of time during the session, the Group of Experts couldn't complete the review. Correspondence groups were established to finalize the review after the session.

13. In early 2013, the secretariat circulated the third draft of the code of practice reflecting amendments made at the third session and by the correspondence groups. The experts had the opportunity to review it before transmission to IMO.

III. Further consideration of the draft code of practice

14. In May 2013, the secretariat transmitted the draft code of practice to the IMO Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers for consideration at its eighteenth session in September 2013 (IMO DSC 18).

15. The draft code of practice consists of 13 chapters (37 pages) and 21 annexes (276 pages). It provides guidance, not only to those responsible for packing and securing cargo, but also to those who receive and unpack transport units. Specific issues such as the chains of responsibility and communication in the supply chain, training and the packing of dangerous goods, are also addressed.

16. The draft code of practice is available (English only) at www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2013/wp24/DSC-18-8-Draft-CTU-Code.pdf.

The Working Party may wish to review it, propose modifications and/or amendments and provide guidance on further action.

IV. Future activities

17. A final session of the Group of Expert has been scheduled for 4–5 November 2013. The experts will consider comments and amendments made by IMO DSC 18 and the Working Party and agree on a final text.

18. The secretariat will then consolidate the final version of the code of practice for endorsement by the three organizations' governing bodies, including the Inland Transport Committee, and publication by IMO.

19. Additional information on the work of the Group of Experts and documents submitted for IMO DSC 18 are available at www.unece.org/trans/wp24/guidelinespackingtus/intro.html.
