Working Party on Inland Water Transport

**Working Party on the Standardization of Technical
and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation**

Forty-eighth session
Geneva, 17–19 February 2016
Item 9 (c) of the provisional agenda
**Promotion of River Information Services (RIS) as well as other
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in inland navigation:
International Standards for Notices to Skippers and for Electronic
Ship Reporting in Inland Navigation (Resolutions Nos. 79 and 80)**

Explanatory note to the proposed amendments to UNECE Resolution No. 80

Transmitted by the Chair of the Notices to Experts Expert Group

The documents on the revised NtS standard being the basis for the revision of UNECE Resolution No. 80, the International Standard for Notices to Skippers in Inland Navigation, were accepted by the NtS Expert Group at the NtS Expert Group meeting in Lille on 26 November 2015.

Based on feedback received from the European Commission and the decisions of the NtS Expert Group meeting on 26 November 2015, I would like to provide you with the NtS standard as being proposed by the NtS Expert Group to the EU, UNECE and River Commissions.

The proposed standard consists of Annex 1, International Standard for Notices to Skippers in Inland Navigation (annex to Resolution No. 80), and Annex 2 including four Appendices as referred to in Annex 1:

• Appendix A: NtS Encoding Guide for editors;

• Appendix B: NtS Encoding Guide for application developers;

• Appendix C: NtS XML Schema Definition (XSD 4.0) and a table with explanation of XML elements;

• Appendix D: NtS Web Service Specification (WSDL 2.0.4.0).

Compared to the current Resolution No. 80 (adopted by the Working Party on Inland Water Transport on 14 November 2014) the following main changes are proposed:

- NtS information shall be made available by the member States via the standardized NtS web service "NtS WSDL 2.0.4.0" to facilitate automatic exchange of NtS information between systems (e.g. display of latest NtS information in Inland ECDIS applications in the wheelhouse).

- The content of NtS messages is standardized/harmonized as specified in the new version of NtS Encoding Guide:

    - to allow processing of NtS messages by other applications (e.g. voyage planning solutions),

    - to increase user friendliness of NtS (e.g. streamlining of content, similar messages for similar situations).

- The new NtS standard contains changes in the message structure "NtS XSD 4.0.4.0" (e.g. to allow different limitations to be addressed to specific target groups within one Fairway- and Traffic related Message).

- RIS Index object reference data which is to be provided by member States, ISRS Location Codes have to be used as unique identifiers for objects and fairways.

- Reference to the European Reference Data Management System (ERDMS) is introduced as electronic source of reference data for NtS reference tables and the RIS Index.

The NtS Expert Group supports the proper and explicit incorporation of the ERDMS as the service operated by the European Commission into the upcoming Standard for NtS. Reference data in general is dynamic data, as e.g. infrastructure is subject to continuous changes and, therefore, shall not be maintained within an Appendix of the Resolution. A precise location where the respective information can be retrieved, the ERDMS at http://risdatamanagement.ris.eu, shall be provided instead. Two sets of reference data are relevant for NtS and available at the ERDMS:

(a)   NtS Reference Tables maintained by the NtS Expert Group including translations of NtS code values which are part of the published technical specifications (used in NtS messages),

(b)   Reference data of objects relevant for inland navigation (e.g. gauge stations, waterway axis, lock chambers, bridges, harbours, berths, terminals) are to be maintained by member States within their area of competence.

The NtS Expert Group invites the delegates to discuss the proposal for the revised NtS standard at the 48th session of SC.3/WP.3.

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