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Activities of other organizations and countries of interest to the Working Party

IRU Resolution on using x-ray equipment for inspecting vehicles at borders and ports

Submitted by International Road Transport Union

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Geneva, 4 November 2010

IRU RESOLUTION ON USING X-RAY EQUIPMENT FOR INSPECTING VEHICLES AT BORDERS AND PORTS

*adopted unanimously by the IRU Goods Transport Council
in Geneva on 4 November 2010*

IRU Resolution on limiting the health and safety risks of x-ray vehicle inspection technology for commercial vehicle drivers.

The International Road Transport Union (IRU), representing road transport operators through its 180 Members in 74 countries on 5 continents,

Considering that

- Border, port and other inspection authorities use non-intrusive inspection ("x-ray") technology more and more in order to produce interior images of commercial vehicles
- Such technology is used to reveal contraband, such as drugs, weapons and currency, as well as the onboard presence of illegal immigrants, therefore, inspection authorities consider this tool as an efficient complement to their cumbersome work of manual inspections, including with canine teams
- X-ray equipment may involve mobile or static inspection machines using various ray sources
- Different control procedures and scanning equipment is used by different countries, which indicates a lack of harmonisation in enforcement
- X-ray scans of one and the same vehicle may take place several times a day on the same route and during the same trip without mutual recognition of such checks, while international and national legislation calls for a decrease in the number of controls en-route
- No preventive measures to protect the drivers are available as well as no information on control procedures and on the impact of x-ray inspections on the health of drivers is accessible

Urgently calls upon governmental authorities to

- Obtain from the manufacturers of x-ray equipment a guarantee that the x-ray technologies and apparatus used are harmless, i.e. without negative health consequences for the driver and without damage to the cargo, as well as ensure that

IRU Resolution

no residue remains in the vehicle that can have long-term negative health consequences for the driver

- Make available to the road transport industry as general information or upon a simple request, the guarantee obtained from the manufacturers of x-ray equipment
- Put in place preventive measures to ensure that drivers are at a sufficient distance from their vehicles during scanning in order to prevent any health damage
- Ensure that transparent information in a simple understandable form is available on control procedures, technology, norms and harm prevention measures of x-ray inspection methods; such information should reach drivers on spot of the inspection, as well as haulage companies via their representative organisations
- Apply x-ray tools and inspection methods whereby the checked vehicle is static and only the scanning frame moves
- Require from x-ray machine operators regular technical inspections and maintenance of equipment as well as continuous training of inspection personnel
- Harmonise inspection procedures, exchange best practices among inspection authorities and adopt an international legal instrument on the mutual recognition of x-ray inspection results by these authorities, introducing a certificate of such a recognition, in order to limit the number of inspections, reduce the related health risks for personnel and increase transport efficiency
