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Inland Transport Committee

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) (ADN Safety Committee)

Nineteenth session

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Proposed amendments to the Regulations annexed to ADN

Obligations of recommended classification societies (1.15.4)

Transmitted by the Governments of Germany and Switzerland^{1, 2}

I. Introduction

1. Recommended and recognized classification societies perform important tasks in the building and oversight of vessels transporting dangerous goods. They also play a crucial role in defining safety standards for vessels. It is thus necessary to ensure that the regulations of classification societies correspond with equivalent requirements.

2. Currently, classification societies operating under ADN or wishing to do so undertake to cooperate with each other under subparagraph 1.15.4.1. To ensure regular cooperation, ADN needs to be amended. The amendment will clearly state the need on the one hand to adapt the rules of classification societies to the requirements of ADN in the specified time frame and on the other hand to keep the competent authority informed.

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² In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2010–2014 (ECE/TRANS/2010/8, programme activity 02.7 (b)).

II. Proposal

3. Amend the text of subsection 1.15.4 as follows:

“1.15.4 Obligations of recommended classification societies

1.15.4.1 Recommended classification societies shall undertake to cooperate with each other so as to guarantee the equivalence of their technical standards, **the implementation of those standards and their coordinated development.**

1.15.4.2 They shall exchange experiences at least once a year with a view to updating and implementing technical standards. They shall report annually to the Safety Committee. The Contracting Parties shall be informed of meetings and be given the opportunity to participate in them.

1.15.4.3 Recommended classification societies shall undertake to bring their requirements into line with the present and future provisions of the Agreement within the established period. In response to requests from the competent authority, recommended classification societies shall provide all relevant information regarding their technical requirements.”

III. Justification

4. In the past, cooperation among classification societies has been very limited. If any issues were taken up, they were discussed above all within the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS). Classification societies that are not members of IACS will henceforth be included in cooperation activities.

5. This amendment aims to underscore the importance of cooperation. This means that, in order to be recognized, classification societies will exchange experiences, compare technical requirements and report regularly to the Safety Committee.

6. Requirements for classification societies must be constantly updated to ensure that classification societies' technical regulations do not diverge from ADN requirements and to thus prevent problems in the building and use of vessels. It is clearly stipulated that recommended classification societies must keep the competent authorities informed.

7. These amendments will result in enhanced safety for inland water transport of dangerous goods.
