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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)

Twentieth session

Geneva, 23–27 January 2012

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to the Regulations annexed to ADN: Other proposals

Language of the print version of ADN and its annexed Regulations on board vessels^{1, 2}

Transmitted by the Government of Austria

Introduction

1. In accordance with 8.1.2.1 (d), every vessel carrying dangerous goods must have on board a copy of ADN with its annexed Regulations. Under 8.1.2.8 all documents must be available in a language that the master is able to read and understand and if that language is not English, French or German, then in English, French or German.
2. All the other documents mentioned in 8.1.2.1 to 8.1.2.3 relate to the vessel, its equipment, the cargo or the persons on board. The aim of the language provisions is to ensure that these documents are readable also to other persons engaged in the transport operation and to inspection bodies. ADN is generally applicable, and any other persons engaged in the transport operation and any inspection bodies should be aware of it. Consequently, it is apparently not useful to have a version of ADN on board in English, French or German, for example when the vessel's crew is from the Netherlands.

¹ Distributed in German by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine under the symbol CCNR/ZKR/ADN/WP.15/AC.2/2012/1.

² In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2010–2014 (ECE/TRANS/208, para. 106; ECE/TRANS/2010/8, programme activity 02.7 (b)).

3. For some documents that must be on board, there are already dispensation provisions (in 5.4.1.2.5.2 for descriptions of measures and in 5.4.3.2 for instructions in writing). As the provisions of parts 5 and 8 are not mutually exclusive, an interpretation may be possible according to which both provisions should be observed. Consequently, it should be pointed out that a dispensation to the general provision in 8.1.2.8 is possible by virtue of the special provisions relating to some documents.

Proposal

4. Amend 8.1.2.8 to read as follows:

8.1.2.8 All documents shall be ~~drawn up on board~~ in a language the master is able to read and understand, ~~and if~~ If that language is not English, French or German, all documents, with the exception of the copy of ADN with its annexed Regulations and those for which the Regulations include special provisions concerning languages, shall be available be on board also ~~and~~ in English, French or German, unless agreements concluded between the countries concerned in the transport operation provide otherwise.
