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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods****103rd session**

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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to Annexes A and B of ADR:**Miscellaneous proposals****Online refresher training for drivers of dangerous goods****Transmitted by the Government of Switzerland****Summary*

Executive summary:	Provide for online refresher training for the renewal of the ADR training certificate.
Action to be taken:	Amend the wording of 8.2.2.5.1, 8.2.2.5.2 and 8.2.2.7.

Introduction

1. The question that the Working Party is invited to address is whether the refresher training for drivers of dangerous goods in accordance with 8.2.2.5, which leads to the examination for the ADR training certificate, can be conducted in part in the form of e-learning.

2. A reading of the texts does not indicate that there is provision for such training in ADR. It is not explicitly prohibited, but several provisions suggest that the training should be face-to-face and take place in a specific location. The provisions that are difficult to comply with through online training include the following:

- 8.2.2.1: The necessary knowledge and skills shall be imparted by training covering theoretical courses and practical exercises.
- 8.2.2.3.6: Teaching units are intended to last 45 minutes.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2016-2017 (ECE/TRANS/2016/28/Add.1, para. 9.1).



- 8.2.2.3.8: The individual practical exercises shall take place in connection with the theoretical training.
 - 8.2.2.4.1: The minimum duration of the theoretical element of each basic training course is 18 teaching units.
 - 8.2.2.5.2: The duration of the refresher training, including individual practical exercises, shall be of at least two days, equivalent to 16 training sessions as specified in 8.2.2.3.7.
 - 8.2.2.6.3 (c): Information on the premises where the courses take place and on the teaching materials, as well as on the facilities for the practical exercises, should be attached to the application for recognition as training bodies.
 - 8.2.2.6.5 (b): The competent authority shall be granted the right to send authorized persons to be present at the training courses and examinations.
 - 8.2.2.6.5 (c): The competent authority shall be advised in good time of the dates and the places of the individual training courses.
3. In light of the above, we conclude that e-learning is not yet provided for in ADR.
 4. We have been informed that there are many courses available via videoconference in the presence of the trainer.
 5. This type of course by videoconference differs from the online courses that can be found online or downloaded from the Web without the presence of a trainer. These are self-study learning software programs.
 6. During the consultation conducted among the European Union member States on amendments to Directive 2003/59/EC on the initial qualification and periodic training of drivers of certain road vehicles for the carriage of goods or passengers and Directive 3006/126/EC on driving licences (see Directive 2014/47), the possibility of using information and communications technology (ICT) tools or combining mandatory training courses was welcomed. It is therefore to be expected that such training will be developed in the near future. The ADR training must also adapt to these technological developments without sacrificing quality. We should provide an appropriate framework in our legislation.
 7. From ADR, we can see that:
 - A refresher training course requires drivers to be present for two days;
 - A large part of the refresher training is theoretical. It represents more than one day.
 8. The introduction of ICT tools under certain conditions can offer benefits. It could improve the level of theoretical knowledge, while allowing more time for practical work. Initially, the online training should cover only the theoretical refresher training, or 1 day or 8 training sessions. Training centres that use this type of procedure for their candidates must ensure that the drivers have passed an examination covering the theoretical knowledge acquired independently online before beginning the final day of refresher training, devoted to practical work. The examination, which should take place before the practical work in the refresher training, should cover the various parts of 8.2.2.3.2 and last for at least 30 minutes, in accordance with 8.2.2.7.1.6. To be granted an extension of the validity of the ADR training certificate, a candidate must have passed a final examination in accordance with 8.2.2.7.1.6, which will take place at the end of the second day of refresher training.
 9. Drivers who do not pass the examination on the online refresher training will be required to take the online training again while their ADR training certificate is still valid, and to pass the examination before proceeding with the second day of training, on practical work, or to participate in a face-to-face refresher course.
 10. The online refresher training course should cover at least the topics (a), (b), (c), (f), (h), (i) (j), (k), (l), (n) and (o) of 8.2.2.3.2.

Proposal

11. Add at the end of 8.2.2.5.1, add the following sentence: “This training may be offered partially in the form of online training, on condition that the provisions of this section are complied with.”.

Add at the end of 8.2.2.5.2, add the following sentence: “The online refresher training shall cover at least the topics (a), (b), (c), (f), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (n) and (o) of 8.2.2.3.2, and shall last for a maximum of eight training sessions.”.

Add a new paragraph, to read as follows:

“8.2.2.7.3 Examination of the refresher course including online training.

Candidates who have followed online refresher training are authorized to sit a final examination following refresher training covering practical work, if they have previously completed online refresher training conforming to 8.2.2.5.2 and have passed a corresponding examination in line with 8.2.2.7.1.5 to 8.2.2.7.1.8.”.
