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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the  
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Accidents and risk management

### **Report on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Workshops of the roadmap on Risk Management in the context of rail, road and inland waterways Transport of Dangerous Goods**

Transmitted by the European Union Agency for railways (ERA)

#### **General information**

The 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Workshops of the roadmap on Risk Management of Inland Transport of Dangerous Goods took place respectively on 11-13 October 2016 and 14-16 February 2017 at the headquarters of the European Union Agency for Railways (hereinafter the Agency), Valenciennes (France).

Mr. Emmanuel Ruffin, Project officer in charge of Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG) at the Agency, chaired the plenary discussions and the parallel sessions of the workgroups were chaired by the facilitators nominated at the 5<sup>th</sup> workshop.

#### **Main results of the 8<sup>th</sup> workshop**

In accordance with the original planning of the TDG Roadmap the 8<sup>th</sup> workshop was mainly a milestone review serving the purpose of steering and, where necessary, amending the content of the risk management guides under development.

To this end the participants reviewed the current status of the following documents composing the framework of guides:

- Framework introduction,
- Guide A on ‘data management and reporting regimes’,
- Guide B on ‘risk estimations’,
- Guide C on ‘risk management and decision-making’,
- User manual – Glossary,
- User manual – Case studies examples

**It was noted a general agreement with the proposed guides and no major methodological change was considered necessary.** It was noted that the Guide A will have to clearly distinguish the part concerning the assistance to a user implementing risk estimations from the part concerning recommendations on the potential future improvements of the current occurrences reporting requirements.

Concerning the User manual documents (Glossary and Case Studies examples) the plenary considered that the development of these new documents should be continued. It was also decided that **volunteers will play the role of ‘test users’ of the guides in the form of a user group.**

*Remark: Following this decision, some volunteers started to test the Guide B on specific cases, this actions is on-going and will be further developed.*

In conclusion of the 8<sup>th</sup> workshop, **it was noted that even if an important quantity of work is still necessary in order to finalize the first version of the guides there was no obstacle to their completion.** as all the principles of the framework and the foreseen content of the guides was agreed and stable. After the complete review of the progress, it was possible to agree on further developments of each above documents, including the identification of necessary clarifications.

As part of the milestone review, the list of issues and potential solutions initially identified by the TDG Roadmap in the annex to the document [ECE-TRANS-WP15-AC1-2014-GE-INF16e.pdf](#) was reviewed in the light of the solutions the harmonized framework of guides would offer. This analysis clearly indicated that the framework would actually address, to a very large extent, most of the issues initially identified.

Anticipating the finalization of a first version of the guides by end 2017, the **participants requested the Agency to reflect on the ownership and on the organization of the future guides’ maintenance.** The Agency confirmed that this topic was also considered by the ‘Communication team’ established after the 7<sup>th</sup> workshop, and that preliminary conclusions from this team would be reported at the next workshop.

## **Main results of the 9<sup>th</sup> workshop**

In addition to the traditional plenary sessions, the 9<sup>th</sup> Workshop was organized also with several cross-working group sessions in order to discuss the interactions between the guides A, B and C and, where necessary, to solve potential gaps/inconsistencies between the guides in order to secure the description of the framework - integrated - approach.

The main conclusions of the cross-workgroup discussions was the following:

- The cross-meeting of the workgroups and the plenary sessions confirmed that the guides will form an integrated approach with clear respective contents and objectives, and that they are complementary.
- The discussion of the links between the guides showed that some clarifications have to be made concerning the way the different users of the framework should use the different guides, respecting each other roles.
- However, no major gaps in the guides were identified. This means that the remaining drafting work will follow the principles and the detailed concepts discussed and agreed until the 9<sup>th</sup> workshop.

Another area was very fruitful during the 9<sup>th</sup> workshop concerning the **general agreement on a draft decision-making process allowing decision-makers to use the results of risk estimations** for assessing the opportunity of new risk control measures against harmonized decision-making principles.

The different steps of the decision-making process were presented to the plenary session of the workshop and discussed in detail by the group C and in the cross meeting of the groups C and B.

As a conclusion of the workshop, **it was agreed that the combination of the risk estimation method and the decision-making process will establish a kind of a versatile and transparent risk-based decision-making standard** which could be used for a large amount of TDG risk situations, including those foreseen in chapter 1.9 RID/ADR/AND, and may also potentially be used for the assessment of significant amendments to international harmonized provisions.

During the discussions, it was noted that the framework of guides will clearly describe the independent roles and responsibilities of the risk estimators and decision-makers in order to avoid biased risk estimations/decisions. As a principle, it was agreed that the user of the risk estimation guide will be responsible for delivering good quality risk estimations to the decision-maker, and that the decision-maker should not intervene directly in the practical risk estimation tasks. The decision maker will be responsible for using in an appropriate and transparent manner the risk estimation results provided by the risk estimators within the harmonized decision-making process.

Finally it was clearly stated that **while the decision-making process will make use of risk estimation indicators, the decision-making guide will not define risk acceptance criteria in its first version.** This will allow for more flexible use of the first version of the guide and for making stock of user experience before this needs is reconsidered. It was clearly agreed that risk estimations results in themselves cannot automatically provide a decision. In any case, it will remain the responsibility of the decision-maker to decide on the optimal risk control measures integrating both the result of harmonized risk indicators and other decision criteria.

From this perspective, the Guide C will provide a harmonized assessment of risk-based estimations but will not make the decision in itself.

### **Future publication of guides and assistance to future users**

Concerning the request made at the 8<sup>th</sup> workshop on the organization of the future publication of the Guides, Mr. Max Obenaus, Communication Officer at the Agency, Chairman of the 'TDG Roadmap Communication team' informed the participants to the 9<sup>th</sup> workshop that an information leaflet will be prepared in order to raise the awareness of potential future users.

**Mr. Obenaus indicated also that considering the importance of these guides in the field of risk management, a visible event should be organized for their official publication, beginning of 2018.**

Several participants considered that the guides should be made available in various languages. The Agency will investigate further this aspect of the publication.

Concerning the ownership of the guides the views of the participants were discussed, going from the Agency, the European Commission or/and the UNECE/OTIF Joint Meeting being owner and/or publisher. As a conclusion the Agency indicated that it would further investigate the best solution with the interested organizations. It would also consider the different aspects of ownership, publishing, maintenance and endorsement of guides...

The possibility to develop a website dedicated to the future users of the Guides was also welcomed by the workshop participants and will be further investigated by the Agency.

The Agency summarized the future perspectives of the TDG Roadmap on Risk management in the context of rail, road and inland waterways and announced that **a planning of actions for the period 2018-2021 will be presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Workshop.** It is foreseen that during this period, TDG roadmap tasks should mainly concentrate on facilitating the actual implementation of the guides by interested users.

It was concluded that this next period of the TDG Roadmap will be very important because it might then be followed by the development of a potential future multimodal Directive toward 2025, for which the guides might become a technical appendix or a recognized standard.

### **Invitation to the 10<sup>th</sup> Workshop**

The 10<sup>th</sup> workshop is going to take place on 13-15 June 2017, in Valenciennes, ERA Headquarters.

The delegates of the Joint Meeting are kindly invited.

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