Changes in the lay-out of the TIR Carnet*

Note by the secretariat

Introduction

In the annexes to this document, the secretariat reproduces, at the request of the International Road Transport Union (IRU), a document outlining its proposals to amend the lay-out of the TIR Carnet in order to accommodate the increase in the number of loading and unloading places from four to maximally eight, submitted to. The document is simultaneously submitted to the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) and the Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention, 1975 (AC.2) in order not to obstruct the entry into force of the already adopted proposal to amend Article 18 of the TIR Convention (please refer to ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/45, para. 47 and ECE/TRANS/WP.30/AC.2/2019/6/Rev.1, Annex I) due to delays in the adoption of required amendments to the lay-out of the TIR Carnet.

* The present document was submitted late due to resource constraint.
Annex I

I. Background

1. At its 154th session (February 2020), the Working Party considered Informal document WP.30 (2020) No. 1 and its Addendum 1 (submitted by IRU), containing a proposal to accommodate up to eight customs offices in the TIR Carnet.

2. At this session, WP.30:
   (a) took note of the changes in boxes 2, 8, 12, 16 and 17, in order to accommodate the increase in the number of loading and unloading places from four to maximally eight;
   (b) took note of the proposals to align boxes 2 and 16 by cross-referencing them to boxes a, b, c until g;
   (c) the delegations felt that due to the restructuring of the lay-out, boxes 8 and 17 had become too small to be of use.

3. In view of the comments received, IRU informed WP.30 that, in its experience, the limited space in boxes 16 and 17 did not constitute any problem in having a clearly readable seal and an easily identifiable stamp (despite their overlap).

4. Following the discussion, IRU was invited to review the design, taking into account the comments made, and, if possible, provide a realistic example of the overlap between the seals and stamps in boxes 16 and 17.

5. The Working Party decided to revert to the issue at its 155th session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.30/308, paras. 12 and 13).

II. New layout

6. IRU took note of the comments raised by WP.30. Accordingly, the following amendments were made to the new lay-out already submitted at its 154th session:
   (a) more space was given to the size of fields 8 and 17;
   (b) the numbering of the loading/unloading places was changed from 1 to 7 (instead of “a” to “g”) in order to remain coherent with the current numbering logic;
   (c) the words “goods manifest” (or “Manifeste de marchandises” in French) were moved to the top of the page, instead of above fields 9 and 10 (in order to save extra space for box 2).

7. To assist in its distribution electronically, Annex II shows the new lay-out in PDF format.

8. IRU is not in a position to present real readable examples of Vouchers No 1 or 2, as these particular pages of the TIR Carnet are detached by customs and used TIR Carnets are returned to IRU without them.

9. Annex III shows an example of Voucher No 1, which IRU has reproduced by filling in the respective fields.

10. Please note that the aforementioned changes will not impact the practical use of TIR Carnets. The new lay-out is illustrated in A4 format which is smaller than the actual TIR Carnet size, therefore in reality there will be more space available for customs to fill in.

11. IRU is of the opinion that only version 1 of the TIR Carnet should benefit from the proposed changes. Version 2, which is limited to the transport of tobacco and alcohol, has not been issued since 1994 and IRU considers it premature to assume at this stage that if and when it is reintroduced in the future, it should also provide up to eight places of loading or unloading.
12. A transitional period would be necessary, during which both lay-outs would remain valid and would be presented and accepted by customs for the related formalities. IRU would remain responsible for effectively managing the stock of TIR Carnets under the current layout until its exhaustion.

III. Considerations by the Working Party and the TIR Administrative Committee

13. In order to speed up the process of introducing the new lay-out (further to the already adopted amendment to Article 18 of the TIR Convention), IRU invites WP.30 and AC.2 to urgently consider and, possibly, adopt and endorse the new proposed lay-out.
Annex II

Empty new lay-out
Annex III

New lay-out filled in by IRU