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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on the Transport of
Perishable Foodstuffs
(Fifty-ninth session,
Geneva, 27-31 October 2003)

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE
DIMENSIONS OF ATP-CERTIFIED ARTICULATED VEHICLES**

Transmitted by Transfrigoroute International

1. European Directive 96/53 EC sets the maximum length for all articulated vehicles at 16.50 m and the maximum distance between the kingpin axis and the rearmost extremity of the vehicle at 12.00 m.

These dimensions do not enable risk-free use, in particular in view of potential hygiene risks, of temperature-controlled articulated vehicles used for the transport of perishable foodstuffs.

2. Transfrigoroute International has drawn up a memorandum in which it is shown that:

- within ATP-certified semi-trailers with one compartment only and carrying a load of 33 euro pallets, the breadth of the vertical air circulation channel running along the back door is only 2 cm as a result of the space taken up by the body's insulation. This amount of space is chronically insufficient;
- within double-compartment bodies with an insulated transverse bulkhead, such vertical channels are practically non-existent;
- the space between the towing vehicle and the trailer is insufficient for the implementation of adequate refrigeration unit noise insulation. And yet it would be possible to reduce the noise level of 65 to 70 dB, depending on the age and condition

of the unit, to roughly 60 dB by increasing the space between the towing vehicle and the trailer by 5 cm.

3. It is for these reasons that Transfrigoroute International would request that WP.11 calls upon the Inland Transport Committee to submit a recommendation to the Council of the European Union requesting an additional 20 cm as regards the maximum length of ATP-certified articulated vehicles and fixing a maximum interior body length of 13.59 m so as to ensure the load does not exceed 33 euro pallets.

These dimensions would increase the distance between the trailer and the towing vehicle by 5 cm, enabling significantly improved refrigeration unit noise insulation.

4. To this end, Transfrigoroute International would like to submit the following draft recommendation to WP.11 for approval:

“[DRAFT recommendation concerning the dimensions of ATP-certified articulated vehicles

The Inland Transport Committee,

Having ascertained that within ATP-certified semi-trailers carrying a load of 33 euro pallets, the distribution of cold air along the outer walls and movable transverse bulkheads is insufficient and that this gives rise to areas within which the perishable goods being carried could heat up,

Calling to mind that transporters of perishable foodstuffs using ATP-certified vehicles are obliged to ensure that the temperature of said foodstuffs remains constant until such time as they are handed over to the recipient and run the risk of having their load refused either in whole or in part if the temperature of certain batches is confirmed to have been incorrectly maintained,

Calling to mind that they are legally responsible for any decrease in the hygiene standard of the goods loaded, which can be a result of failure to ensure that the temperature of part or all of the load was kept constant,

Having ascertained that the noise produced by the refrigeration units used with ATP articulated vehicles could be considerably reduced were the space between the trailer and towing vehicle to be increased slightly so as to enable the use of more effective noise insulation,

Would request that the Council of the European Union, for ATP-certified articulated vehicles, without increasing the number of pallets loaded and on the basis of the same logic that led the maximum width of these vehicles to be set at 2.60 m,

- approves an increase in the maximum length of such vehicles from 16.50 m to 16.70 m and in the maximum distance between the kingpin axis and the rearmost point of the trailer from 12.00 m to 12.20 m,
- sets a maximum trailer interior length of 13.59 m.
