

UNECE Transport Division's feasibility study on the installation of a
Database for the Exchange of Type Approval Documentation (DETA)

Note by the secretariat

QUESTIONNAIRE

For several years, the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) has considered the possibilities of electronic treatment of type approvals granted according to UNECE Regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement. The objective is to reinforce the transparency and the efficiency of the Agreement. The most relevant points are the establishment of an interpretation committee still under consideration by WP.29, and the creation of an electronic database for exchange of type approvals issued by the Contracting Parties to the 1958 Agreement (TRANS/WP.29/885, para. 14, TRANS/WP.29/909, para. 14, TRANS/WP.29/926, paras. 17 and 80, TRANS/WP.29/953, para. 16, TRANS/WP.29/992, paras. 9 and 10, TRANS/WP.29/1016, paras. 75 and 77, TRANS/WP.29/1037, para. 76, TRANS/WP.29/1041, para. 18, TRANS/WP.29/1047, para. 13).

According to the provisions of each UNECE Regulation, the competent authorities of each Contracting Party applying a Regulation shall communicate, to the competent authorities of the other Contracting Parties to the 1958 Agreement which apply that Regulation, a notice of approval or of extension or refusal of approval of a type of vehicle, equipment or parts pursuant to that Regulation, by means of a communication form conforming to the model annexed to the Regulation. In order to reduce the expenditure of all Contracting Parties, it is intended to distribute electronically the type approval documentation. For that purpose, WP.29 recommended investigating the possible installation of an electronic database system for the exchange of type approval data under the 1958 Agreement.

The new database could be established at the UNECE, on which the Administrative Departments of the Contracting Parties (CP) to the 1958 Agreement should store their type approval documentation. This Database for the Exchange of Type Approvals (DETA) should be a secure environment with restricted access (https). The files in that database could be consulted or downloaded by the Administrative Departments of all other CPs to the Agreement. An outsourcing of this project should be possible. The access to the database, the procedure on how to apply for a username and some major technical details (how the database is structured, format of files, search features, etc.) will be settled out later in the DETA User Guidelines.

At the end of 2005, the UNECE secretariat received a budget to proceed with a feasibility study on the installation of such a database. This feasibility study has been assigned to T-Systems Enterprise Services GmbH (Germany). The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect the necessary technical data regarding the requirements of such a database, such as the server performance, the storage capacity, functional requirements, financial support, etc.

This questionnaire is addressed to all designed Administrative Departments of the Contracting Parties to the 1958 Agreement. The Administrative Departments are kindly invited to duly fill out the questionnaire and to send it back (preferably by email), not later than 10 April 2006, to Mr. R. Pickelmann at T-Systems: ralf.pickelmann@t-systems.com with a copy to the UNECE secretariat (romain.hubert@unece.org). In case of further questions please contact Mr. Pickelmann.

It is intended to present the results of the feasibility study during the one-hundred-and-thirty-ninth session of WP.29 in June 2006.

Note by the secretariat: This questionnaire is also available as informal document No. WP.29-138-9 at the WP.29 website: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp29/wp29wgs/wp29gen/geninf138.html>

Question: **Description:**

A. General
Access: The installation of a new electronic database requires a considerable investment by UNECE into a secured database server with an appropriate disk capacity and requires a clear definition of responsibilities by UNECE and the CP (as type approvals are in general classified as confidential documents).

Question 1 Do you agree on the need to install such a database for the exchange of type approval documentation in the framework of the 1958 Agreement?

Answer 1 1/ Yes
No If no, please specify why:

Question 2 Are there any technical, legal or financial constraints for your Administrative Department not to access or use the DETA system?

Answer 2 1/ No
Yes If yes, please specify which one:

B. Document
Archive
Structure: According to the provisions of each UNECE Regulation, the competent authorities of each Contracting Party applying a Regulation shall communicate to the competent authorities of the other Contracting Parties to the 1958 Agreement, which apply that Regulation, a notice of approval or of extension or refusal of approval of a type of vehicle, equipment or parts pursuant to that Regulation, by means of a communication form conforming to the model annexed to the Regulation.

This relevant information can be a type approval document of different file formats (PDF, MSWord, Excel, XML, etc.). DETA shall be able to store any file format, so that all information could be stored in an approval document. For safety reasons, however, it is preferable that information documents should be files in the general format of Portable Document Format (PDF), at least Adobe Acrobat Version 5. If digital signatures are requested, at least Version 6 is needed.

In addition to the Communication Form (CF) delivered by the Administrative Department, a type approval document could include an Information Document (ID) concerning the conduct of tests, Appendices (AP) and a Technical Report (TR).

Question 3 Do you prefer that the type approval documentation shall contain a digital signature?

Answer 3 1/ No
Yes If yes, please specify why:

Question 4 For communication purposes to the other Contracting Parties to the 1958 Agreement, do you consider to distribute:

Answer 4 1/ Communication Form (CF) only?
Communication Form (CF) + Information Document (ID)?
Communication Form (CF) + Information Document (ID) + Appendices (AP)?
Communication Form (CF) + Information Document (ID) + Appendices (AP) + Technical Report (TR)?

1/ Strike out what does not apply

Question:

Description:

C. Disk Capacity:

In order to estimate the necessary storage capacity of the disks, it is necessary to receive information on the number of type approvals granted per year as well as the average size of the files.

Question 5
Answer 5

How many type approvals your administration is granting yearly?
..... *type approval documents*

Question 6
Answer 6

What is the average size of a type approval document?
CF only: *MB*
CF + ID: *MB*
CF + ID + AP: *MB*
CF + ID + AP + TR: *MB*

D. Search Attributes

Each type approval document must have specific search attributes. The attributes are defined by the Administrative Department when storing the document. While searching to retrieve the required document, the user uses these attributes.

Question 7
Answer 7 1/

Do you agree on the following search attributes? *Format:*
ECE Symbol of the Contracting Party to the 1958 Agreement *Fixed list*
(e.g. E 2 for France)
Regulation Number (e.g. Regulation No. 13 for braking) *Fixed list*
including a short title
Manufacturer's name *Text*
Type designation of the vehicle, equipment or part *Text*
Approval number *Text*
Approval date *Date*

Others (please specify):

E. Access Rights for Reading and Writing

Each Administrative Department shall have the right to store only those type approval documents which were granted by this department according to the provisions of a Regulation. According to the provisions of a Regulation, the communication form shall be sent to the other Contracting Parties applying that Regulation. The restriction, that each Contracting Party could only have access to type approval documents according to those Regulations that it is applying, would complicate the system and would burden the access by the users to type approval documents. Furthermore, it would imply an additional workload for the secretariat and the DETA service provider.

Question 8
Answer 8 1/

Do you agree that all users defined in DETA shall have "read" access to all stored approvals?
Yes
No *If no, please specify why:*

Question 9
Answer 9 1/

The normal users of DETA will be the Administrative Departments. Is it acceptable to open DETA (read only access) to other users than the Administrative Departments (such as the designated Technical Services)?
No
Yes *If yes, please specify which one:*

