



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/10  
21 December 2007

Original: ENGLISH

---

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Working Party on the Standardization of Technical  
and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation

Thirty-second session

Geneva, 5-7 March 2008

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**COMMON PRINCIPLES AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR  
PAN-EUROPEAN RIVER INFORMATION SERVICES (RIS)**

Regional Arrangement concerning the Radiotelephone Service on Inland Waterways  
(RAINWAT)

Note by the European RAINWAT Committee

Note by the secretariat

At its fifty first session, the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (SC.3) asked SC.3/WP.3 to monitor the major developments related to river information services (RIS) and to notify it of any changes to be brought to the SC.3 resolutions Nos. 48, 57, 60 and 63 (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/178, para.27). In this context, SC.3/WP.3 may wish to take into account the activities undertaken under the framework of the Regional Arrangement concerning the Radiotelephone Service on Inland Waterways. The document below provides a short description of the RAINWAT agreement and its main provisions. It also contains in the annex the Committee's recommendations on ship information data base containing ATIS and Inland AIS MMSI codes and on the harmonised examination syllabus of the operator certificates for the radiotelephone service on inland waterways. The Working Party may wish to decide whether this information should be reflected in the above-mentioned SC.3 resolutions.

## I. THE REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING THE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICE ON INLAND WATERWAYS

1. The Regional Arrangement concerning the radiotelephone service on Inland Waterways was concluded in Basel on 6 April 2000, between the Administrations of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Switzerland.

2. The undersigned delegates of the Administrations of the above-mentioned countries, willing to implement common safety principles and rules for people and goods on Inland Waterways, considering that the harmonisation of the radiotelephone service shall contribute to a safer navigation on Inland Waterways, particularly in case of bad weather conditions, having held a Regional Conference in Basel in accordance with Article 6 of the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), adopted by mutual consent, provisions concerning the radiotelephone service on Inland Waterways in Europe.

3. The Belgian Administration is entrusted with the handling of the general correspondence concerning the Arrangement and is the official depositary of the texts in three languages of the Regional Arrangement. The contracting Administrations declare that they adopt and will apply the provisions of the Arrangement, its Annexes, its Resolutions and, as far as practicable, its Recommendations.

4. Any Administration which has not signed the Arrangement may at any time deposit an instrument of accession and approval to the Administration of Belgium, which shall immediately inform the other Administrations. Accession to the Arrangement shall be made without reservations and shall apply to the Arrangement as it stands at the time of accession. Accession to the Arrangement and the approval will become effective on the date on which the instrument of accession and approval are received by the Belgium Administration.

5. Frequency assignments and their coordination shall as far as practicable be made in accordance with the "Agreement between the telecommunication authorities on the coordination of frequencies between 29,7 MHz and 960 MHz for Fixed Service and Land Mobile Service, Vienna, 1993" (now HCM Vilnius) in the latest version in force and, for those countries that are not parties to the aforementioned Coordination Agreement, they shall as far as practicable be made in accordance with the Recommendation T/R 25-08 of the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) or be made in accordance with bi- or multilateral agreements.

6. Through the European RIS Directive the Regional Arrangement is the most important part of the RIS system all along the European Inland Waterways fact recognised also by the European Parliament and the European Commission. The Committee RAINWAT is the only one European organization which make rules and politics for the radio-communications on Inland Waterways.

## II. MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE RAINWATT AGREEMENT

### A. Ship Station Licences (SSL)

7. For the establishment and for the operation of the ships station, it is necessary to be holder of a Ship Station Licence, issued by the communications' authority of the country where the ship is registered. The SSL should be permanently on-board the ship and shall be produced to any representative of the competent authority.

### B. Radio operators' certificate

8. The operation of a ship station shall be performed or controlled by a person holding a radio operator's certificate for the radiotelephone service on Inland Waterways. Requirements concerning the acquisition and the issue of radio operators' certificate for the radiotelephone service on Inland Waterways are European harmonised through the Committee RAINWAT.

### C. Inspection

9. The Administrations of communications of countries which a ship visits may require the production of the SSL for examination. The person responsible for the station shall facilitate this examination. When the SSL cannot be produced or when other manifest irregularities are observed, governments or the competent Administrations may inspect the radio installations in order to satisfy themselves that these conform to the conditions imposed by this Arrangement. In addition, inspectors have the right to request the production of the operator's certificate held by the persons operating the station, but proof of professional knowledge may not be demanded. The boatmaster of the ship should be informed accordingly. When a competent Administration has found it necessary to adopt the course indicated above, the Administration of the country of registration of the ship station shall be so informed without delay.

### D. Call signs of the ship stations

10. Each ship station participating in the radiotelephone service on Inland Waterways shall have a call sign. The formation of ship call signs shall be in accordance with Article 19 of the Radio Regulations. In the service categories ship-to-ship, nautical information and ship-to-port authorities, the official name of the ship shall be used.

Annex

A. SHIP INFORMATION DATA BASE CONTAINING ATIS AND INLAND AIS MMSI CODES

Committee RAINWAT considering:

- (a) that for the purpose of on-site inspection the identification by ATIS does not provide enough information e.g. the ship name, so that an urgent necessary on-site inspection cannot take place in due time;
- (b) that contracting Administrations have to identify contact points which are able to provide the necessary additional ship station information;
- (c) that the List of Ship Stations of the ITU, which can also be accessed by the Internet/MARS- system, contains only maritime mobile ship stations,

Noting:

- (a) that the Regional Arrangement contains compulsory provisions for the use of identification of emissions by the use of ATIS system;
- (b) that the reason of for the introduction of this identification system is to provide identification of any emission of a ship station automatically;
- (c) that this identification system provides, in most cases, a direct translation from the code to the call sign of a ship;
- (d) that in some cases it is not possible to translate a call sign directly to the corresponding ATIS code,

Recommends:

- (a) that contracting Administrations should provide and facilitate the exchange of information on Inland Waterway ships, covered by the Regional Arrangement;
- (b) that contracting Administrations should support the development of a common online database for information of Inland Waterway ships containing also ATIS code, ship names and Inland MMSI code.

B. HARMONISED EXAMINATION SYLLABUS OF THE OPERATOR CERTIFICATES FOR THE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICE ON INLAND WATERWAYS

Committee RAINWAT considering:

- (a) that the operator's certificate to be dedicated for usage on inland waterways is related to the Regional Arrangement and governed by the provisions of the ITU Radio

Regulations, as well as other national and international regulations;

- (b) that the basic requirements for the content of the operator's certificate are laid down in Annex 5 of the Regional Arrangement;
- (c) that it is desirable to establish common standards of competence for the personnel of stations of the Radiotelephone Service on Inland Waterways, which will facilitate the mutual recognition of the operator's certificates;
- (d) that administrations are responsible for taking such measures as they consider necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of a person seeking a certificate for the Radiotelephone Service on Inland Waterways;

Recommends:

that administrations issue an operator's certificate for the Radiotelephone Service on Inland Waterways, for candidates passing the examination based on the syllabus described in the Annex.

— — — — —