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**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-third session  
Geneva, 16-18 June 2008  
Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda

**ELABORATION OF HARMONIZED PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF  
APPLICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION OF SHIP'S CERTIFICATES AND  
BOATMASTERS' LICENSES**

Reciprocal recognition of boatmasters' licenses

Submitted by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine  
and the Russian Federation

Note by the secretariat

It is recalled that during its thirty-second session, the Working Party decided to create a group of volunteers to work on mutual recognition of boatmasters' licenses. The Working Party also asked Governments and River Commissions to send to the secretariat information of their principles and criteria of the mutual recognition of boatmasters' examination (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/64, paras.14 and 15).

The information received by the secretariat, in addition to the information contained in Document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2008/6 and its addendum, is reproduced below. The Working Party may wish to decide what recommendation, if any, it should submit to the Working Party on Inland Water Transport on a possible UNECE document on the reciprocal recognition of boatmasters' licenses, as well as on updating the Recommendations on Minimum Requirements for the Issuance of Boatmasters' Licenses in Inland Navigation with a view to their Reciprocal Recognition for International Traffic (resolution No. 31).

## **I. THE CENTRAL COMMISSION FOR THE NAVIGATION OF THE RHINE (CCNR)**

1. The following CCNR documents address the issue of mutual recognition of boatmasters' licenses:

- (a) "Statutory requirements for the recognition on the Rhine of boatmasters' licenses and of professional qualifications for radar navigation", reproduced in document ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2007/8/Add.1 of 8 August 2008;
- (b) CCNR resolution 2003-I-13, "Preparation of provisions for the implementation of Additional Protocol No. 7", reproduced in document TRANS/SC.3/2005/5/Add.1 of 8 August 2005;
- (c) Additional Protocol No. 7 to the Revised Convention for Rhine Navigation, reproduced in document TRANS/SC.3/2003/11/Add.1 of 27 June 2003.

2. In addition, Resolution 2005-I-4 provides in its protocol 4 a comparative analysis of the Rhine regulations and the provisions adopted by the European Community (Directive 96/50/CE), prepared following the request from the European Commission.

## **II. RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

3. Given that at the present time only the vessels under the Russian Federation's flag navigate on the inland waterways of the Russian Federation, the procedure for mutual recognition of boatmasters' licenses has not been established.

4. In order to elaborate principles and criteria for mutual recognition of boatmasters' licenses, the Russian Federation considers it appropriate to consider the following procedures:

- (a) Exchange of information between parties on:
  - i. Training systems in their educational institutions with information on their training programme;
  - ii. Approval system for the educational institutions;
  - iii. Record-keeping system for people who have received the training;
  - iv. System for accumulating and documenting the professional experience;
  - v. System for medical certification;
  - vi. System for issuing and keeping records of delivered boatmasters' licenses.
- (b) Based on the analysis of the received information, each party can take a decision on the recognition of the boatmasters' licenses issued by the other party.

- (c) After a positive decision on the recognition, parties establish an agreement on mutual recognition. Parties shall inform each other of any substantial change to the preparation or issuance of the boatmasters' licenses.
- (d) Parties shall also agree on the procedures for issuing licenses for specific regions of inland waterways. In this situation, an examination of the knowledge of the specific region, after a compulsory one-month internship in this region, could be foreseen.

5. Collecting information on the specificities of local navigational conditions in various river basins and studying the possibility for an administration to analyze local conditions in a foreign river basin could be a useful step towards solving this problem.

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