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|  |  **INF.20** |
| **Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee**Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods****Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to theEuropean Agreement concerning the International Carriageof Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)(ADN Safety Committee)****Twenty-eighth session**Geneva, 25 - 29 January 2016Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda**Implementation of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)****Matters related to classification societies** | **19 January 2016** |

 ISO 17020:2012 - Subsection 1.15.3.8 ADN

 Transmitted by the Recommended ADN Classification Societies

 1. The aim of submission.

The Recommended Classification Societies Group would like to re-arrange the following ADN Requirement (Part 1, para 1.15.3.8):

*The classification society shall have prepared and implemented and shall maintain an effective system of internal quality based on the relevant aspects of internationally recognized quality standards and conforming to the standards EN ISO/IEC 17020:2012 (except clause 8.1.3) (inspection bodies) and ISO 9001 or EN ISO 9001:2008 + AC:2009. The classification society is subject to certification of its quality system by an independent body of auditors recognized by the administration of the State in which it is located.*

 2. Reasons

2.1 The International Standard ISO/IEC 17020:2012 is an **accreditation** standard applying requirements to the inspection bodies (full name: Conformity assessment - Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection).

2.2 Since standard ISO 17020:2012 is an accreditation standard and **not** a certification standard, the ***certification*** mentioned in the second sentence of para 1.15.3.8 may imply **only certification** for compliance with ISO 9001 and does not require **accreditation** of the classification society according to ISO 17020:2012.

2.3 The field of the certified activities is not restricted in both standards, so the classification activities for inland navigation may not be separated from marine activities; the **certified processes** for both issues are the same.

2.4 The certification of any classification society in accordance to the standards shall be subjected to circle-wise auditing Head office and several Branches to complete the cycle audit of all the company's offices within two certification cycles, and the Certificate may be valid for the complete quality system covering HO and operational centers.

2.5 The Certifying Body may be one of internationally recognized or recognized only by the country of the Branch activities (in this case the Certificate becomes valid for the exact Branch(es) based in the specified Country only).

 3. Proposal

The Informal Group of Classification Societies would prepare a proposition for rephrasing §1.15.3.8 for a uniform understanding.

 4. Annex

The letter from IACS dated Dec.23, 2015, clarifying position of IACS QSCS towards ISO 17020 and mentioning ADN requirements, is appended for information and reference.



