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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) (ADN Safety Committee)

#### Thirty-first session

Geneva, 28-31 August 2017

Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda

**Implementation of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN): training of experts**

### **Report of the 17th meeting of the informal working group on the training of experts**

#### **Transmitted by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR)\*.\*\***

1. The informal working group on the training of experts held its 17th meeting, chaired by Mr. Bölker (Germany), in Strasbourg on 22 and 23 March 2017. Representatives of the following States took part in the meeting: Austria, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland. The following non-governmental organizations and training bodies were represented: European Barge Union (EBU), European River-Sea Transport Union (ERSTU) and Binnenschiffer-Ausbildungs-Zentrum (BAZ) (Germany).

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\*\* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2016-2017 (ECE/TRANS/2016/28/Add.1 (9.3)).



## **I. Adoption of the agenda**

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2017/8 a (agenda)

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2017/4 (report of the 16th meeting)

2. The informal working group adopted the agenda and the report.

## **II. Work schedule**

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2017/8 (work schedule)

3. The Chair introduced the work schedule for 2017 and 2018.
4. The informal working group noted that item 2.4 of the schedule had been completed and could therefore be deleted.
5. The informal working group considered and adopted the work schedule for 2017 and 2018.

## **III. Continuous adaptation of the ADN 2017 catalogue of questions (item 1 of the work schedule)**

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2017/1 – Com. Secr. (ADN 2017 catalogue of questions, General)

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2017/3 – Com. Secr. ADN 2017 catalogue of questions, Chemicals)

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2017/2 – Com. Secr. (ADN 2017 catalogue of questions, Gas)

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2011/4-17 – Com. Secr. (confidential documents, ADN 2011 substantive questions; could be made available at the meeting)

### **3.1. ADN 2017 (item 1.2 (new) of the work schedule)**

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2017/5

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2017/9

6. The Austrian delegation transmitted to the informal working group proposals for new multiple-choice questions concerning marking as covered in ADN, Chapter 5.2. The informal working group considered new issues and decided that they would be added to the catalogue of questions - General and that it would propose their adoption by the ADN Safety Committee for the 2019 edition.

7. The informal working group considered document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2017/9 submitted by the delegation of the Netherlands, which covered questions that often gave rise to incorrect answers. After considering the questions, the informal working group proposed to the ADN Safety Committee that question 120 07.0-21 not be used pending the next revision of the catalogue of questions.

8. The informal working group considered other issues relating to the questions used for the examination. The informal working group noted that answer C to question 130 07.0-16 was not entirely correct. It was decided that, since ADN did not contain provisions concerning the validity of certificates attesting to the absence of gas, the informal working group on degassing of cargo tankers should be invited to consider the matter. It was agreed that question 130 07.0-16 should not be used pending clarification of the matter.

9. Continuing its consideration of substantive issues, the informal working group agreed that the German delegation would check whether the BSCW collaboration software used in Germany could be used as a platform for exchanging documents. As a first step, the secretariat of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) would shortly provide the German version of substantive questions to the heads of delegation of those Contracting Parties whose experts participated in the meetings of the informal working group

on the training of experts, drawing attention to the confidentiality of the content (given the instructions issued by the ADN Safety Committee at its 18th session - ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/38, paras. 31 and 34-36).

10. The German delegation asked whether the safety data sheets were still up to date. The delegation of the Netherlands said that the safety data sheets were not used for its reviews but a “*Chemiekaartenboek*”, or “chemistry card book”, was made available.

11. The delegation of Germany asked about the allocation of points in the evaluation of replies to substantive questions. The informal working group noted that, when substantive questions were used for the specialization courses on gases and chemistry, 15 questions had to be selected, that a maximum of 30 points could be obtained and that the examination lasted 90 minutes. Usually two points were awarded for each correct answer. Partial points could be awarded for incomplete answers. The Chair concluded the discussion by stating that, in accordance with the decisions of the ADN Safety Committee concerning the use of the catalogue of questions for the ADN expert examination, the competent authorities of member States could establish additional requirements, as had been done in Belgium and the Netherlands.

### **3.2. Adaptation of the directive on the use of the catalogue of questions for the ADN expert examination (item 2.1 of the work schedule)**

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/62, para. 35

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2017/4

12. The informal working group revised the directive on the use of the catalogue of questions for the ADN expert examination to ensure that the holding of examinations by electronic means would take place in a uniform manner. The informal working group agreed that, when examinations were held by electronic means, the texts of the regulations on dangerous goods and the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI) could be made available only in print versions.

13. The informal working group considered and approved the amended directive on the use of the catalogue of questions for the ADN expert examination. It was agreed that the revised version of the directive would be transmitted by the CCNR secretariat to the ECE secretariat. The participants invited the ADN Safety Committee to approve the amendments in question.

## **IV. ADN expert examination (item 2 of the work schedule)**

### **4.1. Recognition of training in the framework of chapter 8.2**

14. The Chair said that no document had been submitted under the sub-item.

### **4.2. Format of the expert certificate in the framework of chapter 8.2**

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2017/7 – Com. DE

15. The Chair said that the item would be discussed together with item 4.3.

### **4.3. Harmonization of chapter 8.2, “Requirements concerning training”, with Chapter 8.2 of ADR**

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2014/4 – Com. DE

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2013/3 – Com. DE

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2013/17, paras. 13-15

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2013/31, paras. 29 and 30

16. The German delegation presented its proposal for aligning sections 8.2.1 and 8.2.2.8 of ADN concerning the training of experts and the certificate of specialized knowledge of ADN with the corresponding provisions of ADR.

17. The informal working group recommended interpreting section 8.2.1.4 to mean that a candidate who failed the exam could take it up to two more times without first being obliged to take refresher courses.

18. The informal working group also proposed introducing a minimum period of 14 days between the tests of refresher courses. If that were approved by the Safety Committee, the informal working group would at its next meeting add the relevant information to the directive on the use of the catalogue of questions.

19. It was decided that for the next meeting of the ADN Safety Committee, the informal working group would present a proposal for revising the regulations annexed to the ADN and the directive on the use of the catalogue of questions.

20. The informal working group invited the Safety Committee to remind delegations to kindly provide the ECE secretariat with the contact details of competent authorities so that they could be published on the ECE website.

21. The informal working group invited the German delegation to submit to the ADN Safety Committee a revised version of document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2017/7 for adoption.

#### **4.4. Analysis of examination statistics**

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/62, para. 42

22. The Chair presented Germany's examination statistics for the period 1 January-31 December 2016. Pass rates remained in the usual range, with a 75% success rate. There were no unusual findings.

## **V. General questions regarding the catalogue of questions (item 3 of the work schedule)**

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/62, para. 35

23. The informal working group held an exchange of views on the conduct of electronic examinations. In the Netherlands, the order of possible answers had already been changed. The database used in the Netherlands would in the future also make it possible to analyse statistics on questions yielding correct answers and those that often yielded incorrect ones. In Germany, the order of possible answers had not been changed for the examinations.

24. The informal working group was of the view that changing the order of possible answers for electronic exams did not present disadvantages in comparison with written exams. According to 8.2.2.7.1 of ADN, it was quite permissible to change the order of questions.

## **VI. Schedule of meetings**

25. The informal working group decided to hold its next meetings in Strasbourg on 14 and 15 March 2018 and from 18 to 20 September 2018. It was agreed that the meetings would start at 2 p.m. and end at 4 p.m.

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