

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

27 July 2018

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-third session

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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

Proposal to extend the examination time of ADN 8.2.2.7.1.5 (basic training course) and 8.2.2.7.3.2 (refresher training course)

Transmitted by EBU and ESO

Reference document: ECE/TRANS/AC.2/2018/43 (minutes of the informal working group on the training of experts)

I. Introduction

1. From both the members of the inland industry associations and from the training organizers and instructors, it is noted that the duration of the ADN-exams are being experienced as ‘too short’ for the participants. The ADN has increased in the last years both in volume and the level of the content. This combination forces the participants to read and search through more pages of the ADN than has been in the past.
2. During the meeting of the informal working group on the training of experts, the barge industry stipulated the need to extend the time available to do ADN-exams.
3. This time is needed to examine a participant in an effective way on his/her knowledge of the ADN and the skills to work with it. It should not be a test to be as fast as possible. Besides, the feeling of having too little time brings extra and unnecessary stress to the participant, which does not lead to an objective examination procedure and results.

II. Proposal

4. To give candidates an honest chance to pass the exam with sufficient time to prove their knowledge and skills to work correctly with the ADN of ‘today’, EBU/ESO propose to extend the average time to answer an examination question from 2 minutes/question to 2,5 minutes/question.

This would result in a change of :

Extension of examination time in ADN 8.2.2.7.1.5 (basic training course) from 60 to 75 minutes

Extension of examination time in ADN 8.2.2.7.3.2 (refresher training course) from 40 to 50 minutes.

5. In the report of the informal working group on the training of experts under sub 12, it is mentioned that the examination time of the specialized training courses for experts of “gases” and “chemicals” should be reconsidered as well. The barge industry associations did research and have the opinion that the time for these exams are sufficient for the relevant specialists. In the past those exams have been extended in time already.

III. Safety impact and argumentation

6. There is no safety impact. People who do not have studied sufficiently will still not be able to pass their exam by providing a bit more time. For most people it will be more comfortable to do an ADN-exam without the major stress of time. They will be able to focus more on the content of the exam and have sufficient time to prove their skills.

7. It should be taken into account that most ADN-experts are no academically educated people but hard working practical people. It is important to have a fitting system to test their ADN-knowledge and skills in an appropriate way.
