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Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to annexes A and B of ADR: miscellaneous proposals

Online refresher training for drivers of dangerous goods

Transmitted by the International Road Transport Union (IRU)*

Summary

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| Executive summary: | Provide for online refresher training for the renewal of the ADR training certificate. |
| Action to be taken: | Amend sub-section 8.2.2.5.2 of ADR. |
| Reference documents: | ECE/TRANS/WP.15/2017/17 and
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2018/10. |

Introduction

1. Based on the ADR Chapter 8.2 requirements, drivers/experts carrying dangerous goods have the obligation to attend a basic training course and to pass an examination accordingly.
2. Prior to twelve months before the date of expiry of the certificate, drivers/experts shall attend and pass an examination in the framework of a refresher training programme, as indicated in sub-sections 8.2.2.5 and 8.2.2.7.1.6 of the ADR.
3. The minimum duration of the “basic training course” is 18 teaching units, as specified in sub-section 8.2.2.4.1, while the refresher training programme of two days described in 8.2.2.5.2 corresponds to 16 teaching units, as specified in sub-section 8.2.2.3.7 of ADR.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2018-2019, (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/237, annex V, (9.1)).

4. Further provisions that are difficult to comply with through online training include the following:
- (a) 8.2.2.1: The necessary knowledge and skills shall be imparted by training covering theoretical courses and practical exercises.
 - (b) 8.2.2.3.6: Teaching units are intended to last 45 minutes.
 - (c) 8.2.2.3.8: The individual practical exercises shall take place in connection with the theoretical training.
 - (d) 8.2.2.4.1: The minimum duration of the theoretical element of each basic training course is 18 teaching units.
 - (e) 8.2.2.5.2: The duration of the refresher training, including individual practical exercises, shall be of at least two days, equivalent to 16 training sessions as specified in 8.2.2.3.7.
 - (f) 8.2.2.6.3 (c): Information on the premises where the courses take place and on the teaching materials, as well as on the facilities for the practical exercises, should be attached to the application for recognition as training bodies.
 - (g) 8.2.2.6.5 (b): The competent authority shall be granted the right to send authorized persons to be present at the training courses and examinations.
 - (h) 8.2.2.6.5 (c): The competent authority shall be advised in good time of the dates and the places of the individual training courses.
5. Due to advanced technologies in general, more possibilities are foreseen in all sectors for transport operators, even in training courses. To improve and facilitate the professionalism of the education for all parties, IRU is looking to facilitating training through innovative technologies such as e-learning without endangering training quality and standards.

Background

6. During the session of the Joint Meeting RID/ADR/ADN of September 2018, as well as during the session of the 103rd & 105th sessions of the Working Party, several delegations agreed that ADR should be amended to allow new methods of training, such as online and videoconference courses, to be used in the future and it has been confirmed that online driver training for dangerous goods in some Contracting Parties is already an option for the driver when applying to refresher training (see paragraphs 48 and 50 of the report ECE/TRANS/WP.15/239).
7. In our proposal, drivers will have the choice of either performing the two days in person at the training institute, or just one day in person and the other day online with e-learning.
8. IRU has analysed the following:
- (a) Drivers shall be present during two days for a refresher training course.
 - (b) A large part of the refresher training course is theory, which on average in contracting parties represents between one and one-and-a-half day.
 - (c) New Definition:
Online training and e-learning: The delivery of a learning, training or education programme by electronic means.

E-learning involves the use of a computer or electronic device (e.g. a mobile phone) in some way to provide training, educational or learning material. E-learning can involve a greater variety of equipment than online training or education, for as the name implies, "online" involves using the Internet or an Intranet. CD-ROMs and DVDs can also be used to provide learning material where online mentoring with live instructors is also a technical option. Distance education provides the base for e-learning's development. E-learning can be self-paced and on-demand. It overcomes timing, attendance and travel difficulties.

9 While not jeopardising the quality of training and ensuring compliance with training curricular and standards IRU proposes to amend the refresher training course further, in order to improve and cover more theory and ultimately provide better and more practical exercises for drivers by using e-learning solutions.

10. As a first step, allowing e-learning solutions for the one-day theory refresher training course (eight teaching units) should be considered.

11. Training institutes implementing such a process for their clients (drivers) shall guarantee, prior to the last day of the refresher training course (practical exercises), that drivers shall pass the examination in order to continue with the practical course. The examination shall be in line with 8.2.2.7.1.5 to 8.2.2.7.1.8 and cover the theory items contained in sub-section 8.2.2.3.2 10. If drivers do not pass the examination of the e-learning refresher training course, they should re-start their e-learning course or take a standard 2 days refresher training course (without e-learning) for a certificate of driver's training (as per 8.2.2.8.5).

12. With a view to ensure compliance and quality, the competent national authority supervises that only certified training institutes can provide e-learning courses.

13. The e-learning of the refresher training course should cover, in principle, the following topics, based on sub-section 8.2.2.3.2:

- (a) General requirements governing the carriage of dangerous goods
- (b) Main types of hazards
- (c) Information on environmental protection in the control of the transfer of waste
- (f) Marking, labelling, placarding and orange-coloured plate marking
- (h) Purpose and the method of operation of technical equipment on vehicles
- (i) Prohibitions on mixed loading in the same vehicle or container
- (j) Precautions to be taken during loading and unloading of dangerous goods
- (k) General information concerning civil liability
- (l) Information on multimodal transport operations
- (n) Traffic restrictions in tunnels and instructions on behaviour in tunnels (prevention of incidents, safety, action in the event of fire or other emergencies, et cetera)
- (o) Security awareness.

14. At the end of the refresher training course, participants shall pass the examination as per sub-section 8.2.2.7.1.6.

Proposal

15. IRU proposes to amend further sub-section 8.2.2.5.2 of ADR to be read as follows, with the inclusion of the **bold** sentence:

“8.2.2.5.2 The duration of the refresher training, including individual practical exercises, shall be of at least two days for comprehensive training courses, or at least one half the duration allocated to the corresponding initial basic or initial specialisation training courses as specified in 8.2.2.4.1 for individual training courses. **This training may be offered partially in the form of online training and which could include for the theoretical part and in compliance with existing curricular one day of e-learning and cover at least the topics (a), (b), (c), (f), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (n) and (o) of 8.2.2.3.2, and shall last for a maximum of eight training sessions..**”

“8.2.2.5.2.x Competent authority shall be in discretion of required e-learning infrastructure of the relevant authorisation of training centres.

Justification

Safety: Clear text helps the driver to demonstrate foresight and lend a modern appearance to the refresher training of drivers engaged in the transport of dangerous goods by roads and will, in accordance with applicable provisions, improve transport safety.

Feasibility: The training content, the mechanism of their application, as well as the obligations of the respective parties, are clearly stated.
