

UNECE standardization information

Worldwide harmonized regulations overcoming technical barriers to trade

UNECE would like to recall that the organization hosts several standards setting bodies – including the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) which presented its contribution to energy efficiency through the reduction of vehicles' emissions. Additionally, a unique body, the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies develops and shares best practice in the area of technical regulations, standardization policies, and policies related to quality infrastructure as well as conformity assessment and market surveillance. It encourages and supports regulatory cooperation among members in specific sectors, such as the equipment used in installations with a high risk of explosion.

The next session of the Working Party will take place from November 30 to December 2 this year. At its last session the Working Party gave mandate to the Bureau and the Secretariat to start consultations on the revision of recommendations F and G of the Working Party. These recommendations are directed to governments and aim at providing guidance on conformity assessment choices that reduce technical barriers to trade and increase safety and compliance. Two rounds of discussion on the revised text of the recommendations have been held this year and the latest draft revision will be tabled in the agenda of the Euro-Asian Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC) Working Group on Conformity Assessment at the end of June in Baku, Azerbaijan. We invite delegations to participate and to comment on the drafts of the two recommendations.

In another area of the WP. 6 work, the Working Party has developed a methodology for applying risk management tools to regulatory action, in particular to the development and implementation of technical regulations. This methodology has been applied in a number of countries, including Brazil, Mongolia, Malawi and Nigeria. Further field activities are planned in the sector of fisheries, in cooperation with ARSO (URLs: <http://www.acp-eu-tbt.org/pageprojbusopp.cfm> and <http://95.110.167.47/tbt/doc/Synopsis4.pdf>). We are hopeful that field activities will start in the near future and will report back on their results at the next WTO TBT meeting.