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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)

Fortieth Session

Geneva, 22–26 August 2022

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

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

Report on the twenty-second 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 twenty-second meeting, chaired by Mr. Bölker (Germany), in Strasbourg from 29 to 30 March 2022. Representatives of the following States took part in the meeting: Germany (online); the Netherlands (online); and Switzerland (on site). The following non-governmental associations and training institutions were represented: the European Barge Union (EBU); the European Skippers Organisation (ESO); the Binnenschiffer-Ausbildungs-Zentrum (BAZ); HGK Ship Management; and GUSPAF GmbH.

I. Adoption of the agenda

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/2a (Agenda)

2. The informal working group approved the agenda without changes.
3. The Chair stated that the last meeting had been held online between 8 and 10 December 2020.

* Distributed in German by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine under the symbol CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WP.15/AC.2/2022/34.

** A/76/6 (Sect.20) para. 20.76).



II. Programme of work

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/6 (Programme of work)

Informal document INF.10 of the thirty-fifth session

4. The previous programme of work covered the period 2019–2020. No new version was drafted during the period of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The next version would be based on ADN 2023.
5. The informal working group identified continuous tasks (No. 2, Issues before the ADN Safety Committee, and No. 3, Clarification of general training issues) and set priorities for the remaining tasks. It was agreed to use the newly created European Standard for Qualification in Inland Navigation (ES-QIN) as a basis for the necessary revision of first aid issues.
6. Work on rescue winches (1.3.2), fire and naked lights (1.3.3), the six-month time limit for specialization courses (2.2), and a format for examination statistics (2.4.2) has been completed.
7. A new item (3.1) has been added to the programme of work: “Authorized documentation for the gas and chemicals tests”.

III. Continuous adaptation of the ADN catalogue of questions 2021

(Item 1 of the programme of work)

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2021/13 (General)

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2021/11 (Chemicals)

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2021/12 (Gas)

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2011/4-17 – Com. Secr. (Confidential documents, ADN 2011 substantive questions)

Substantive questions on gases (BSCW server)

ECE/ADN/2022/1 (Proposed amendments to the Regulations annexed to ADN for entry into force on 1 January 2023)

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/80 (Report of the ADN Safety Committee on its thirty-ninth session, Annex I, Proposed amendments to the Regulations annexed to ADN for entry into force on 1 January 2023)

8. It was agreed that the substantive issues would be verified bilaterally by the different experts and submitted to the informal working group at its next meeting.

1. ADN 2023

(Item 1.3 of the programme of work)

9. The CCNR secretariat would distribute a draft German version of the 2023 ADN in June 2022 (in track-changes mode).

10. Agreement was reached on the division of work on updating the ADN 2023 catalogue of questions. (Note: the amended questions should be sent to Mr. Bölker and the CCNR secretariat for information before the end of July. The secretariat would collect the changes and distribute the updated catalogues of questions through the CCNR secretariat before the September meeting in Strasbourg).

11. With regard to the catalogue of questions for ADN 2025, it was proposed that the topics be shared out among the participants to avoid a situation where the same persons or groups of persons always dealt with the same examination questions.

2. **Adaptation of the directive on the use of the catalogue of questions for the ADN expert examination**

(Item 2.1 of the programme of work)

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/9 (Distribution of the work on the 2023 ADN catalogue of questions)

12. The informal working group discussed and updated the directive on the use of the catalogue of questions for the ADN expert examination.

13. In the French and German versions of ADN, the terms “*test*” and “*Prüfung*” were used in Chapter 8.2. In the English version, both terms were translated as “examination”. It was proposed to check this translation of the English version and, if necessary, to adapt it to the German and French versions.

14. The Chair invited the secretariat to resubmit document CCNR-CNR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/9 in track-changes mode for the next meeting of the informal working group.

IV. **ADN expert training and examination**

(Item 2 of the programme of work)

1. **Completion of the training courses referred to in 8.2**

15. A representative of the training institutes suggested that ADN courses be allowed to break over the weekend to allow participants to go home at weekends. This meets the wishes of the course participants for a better work-life balance and promotes the social sustainability of inland water transport. The informal working group exchanged views on the situation and concluded that there was no reason why there should not be a break in classes at weekends.

2. **Harmonization of 8.2, “Requirements concerning training”, with the ADR e-learning model**

16. A new informal working group of the ADR/RID/ADN Joint Meeting on e-learning has been established for this purpose. Representatives of non-governmental organizations in the Safety Committee were invited to participate in the meetings of the informal working group. This activity was also in line with the Mannheim Ministerial Declaration of the Ministers responsible for transport of the CCNR member States, paragraph 5 of which called on the CCNR to promote the development of digitization, automation and other modern technologies.

17. The first meeting of this working group would be held on 17 May 2022. The informal working group was tasked with the following:

- (a) Examine which e-learning formats ensure quality comparable to traditional courses;
- (b) Check what changes were needed in ADN/ADR for this purpose; and
- (c) Examine how the practical exercises referred to in 8.2.2.4 and 8.2.2.5 of the ADN could be integrated into an e-learning concept.

18. The representative of Germany suggested working first on a proposal for distance learning courses for basic and specialization courses.

19. At the next meeting, the secretariat would report on the provisions of the Regulations for Rhine Navigation Personnel concerning distance learning.

3. **Analysis of examination statistics**

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/7 (Examination statistics table)

20. The Chair presented the examination statistics for the basic training and specialization courses.

21. The informal working group noted that the data in the examination statistics were collected and recorded in a disparate manner. In particular, data on refresher courses were still missing. All ADN contracting parties were invited to make the results of examinations available to the informal working group.

V. General issues concerning the catalogue of questions

(Item 3 of the programme of work)

22. The informal working group discussed the proposal by EBU/ESO to extend the duration of the tests from 60 to 75 minutes. Three approaches were considered for adapting the tests:

- (a) Increase the duration from 60 to 75 minutes;
- (b) Simplify the wording of the questions; and
- (c) Reduce the number of answers from 4 to 3.

The informal working group unanimously agreed that the level of the examination should not be lowered.

23. Candidates must have at least a B1 level command of the test language. In Germany, only examinations in German were offered; in the Netherlands only examinations in Dutch were offered.

24. The informal working group decided to shorten and simplify the wording of the questions and answers as a first step. If this still proved insufficient, a possible second step would be to extend the examination time appropriately or reduce the number of responses from 4 to 3.

VI. Other matters

25. The informal working group exchanged views on the treatment of the substantive questions on gas and chemicals and agreed that they could be discussed bilaterally by the delegations of Germany and the Netherlands. Representatives from EBU/ESO, GUSPAF and BAZ offered their support in this regard. The questions were stored on the BSCW server.

26. The CCNR secretariat would distribute updated or new substantive issues to the informal working group. The Chair emphasized that substantive issues must be dealt with in a confidential manner.

VII. Schedule

27. The next meeting of the working group was scheduled from 20 September (2 p.m.) to 22 September 2022 (2 p.m.), in Strasbourg.
