



Economic Commission for Europe
Inland Transport Committee
Working Party on Rail Transport
Group of Experts on Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock
Sixth session

Geneva, 29–30 August 2022

**Report of the sixth session of the Group of Experts on
 Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock**
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I. Attendance

1. The Group of Experts on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock (PIRRS or the Group) held its sixth session on 29 and 30 August 2022 as a hybrid meeting, taking place simultaneously online and in-person in Geneva.
2. The session of the Group of Experts was attended by representatives of the following ECE countries: Albania, Poland and the Russian Federation.
3. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations were present: Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail, International Institute for the Unification of Private Law and Organization for Co-Operation Between Railways.
4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies and Rail Working Group.
5. Representatives of the following organizations and private industry groups attended the session: Russian Railways, Iran National Inventions and Innovation Team / Sustainable Development Goals Program SDGs and Trans-European Railway Project.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)¹

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/6

6. The Group of Experts adopted the agenda as set out in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/6 and agreed to read through the report under agenda item 5 rather than just the list of decisions.

III. Development of the Permanent Marking on the Unique Rail Vehicle Identification System (agenda item 2)

A. Model Rules on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/8,
ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/12

7. The secretariat introduced document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/8 containing the updated Model Rules on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock (Model Rules) explaining the main changes that had been made following discussions at the fifth session of the Group and the subsequent informal drafting group meeting in June. The secretariat also highlighted a small number of changes proposed by the Russian Federation to text in Russian included in the Model Rules as set out in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/12.
8. The Group of Experts discussed the updated document and identified the following minor changes to be made to the text:
 - Article 2.2 to be updated according to discussions during the session.
 - Reference to UNECE to be replaced with ECE throughout the text.
 - The possibility of including the United Nations logo on the URVIS marker (to be highlighted in the report of the Group rather than in the current version of the Model Rules).
 - The carrying out of minor editorial changes.
9. The Group noted that activities on the development of the Model Rules had been completed under this mandate.

¹ Information on the session is available at:
<https://unece.org/info/Transport/Rail-Transport/events/367650>.

10. The Group of Experts welcomed the efforts made by experts on the Model Rules and asked that the annex of document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/8 be submitted to the Working Party on Rail Transport, as amended during the session, for adoption.

B. Revisions Committee for the Model Rules

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/9

11. Following the request from the Group at the fifth session, the secretariat, with the support of experts, prepared document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/9 setting out the Draft Terms of Reference for the Revisions Committee to be established to review and update the Model Rules. The contents of the document were presented by the secretariat.

12. Experts noted the importance of having such a Revisions Committee in existence and identified its creation as a fundamental part of the Model Rules. Experts requested that the following changes be made to the Terms of Reference:

- Paragraph six to be modified to refer to a Chair and up to two Vice-Chairs.
- Reference to UNECE to be replaced with ECE throughout the text.
- The carrying out of minor editorial changes.

13. The Group of Experts welcomed the efforts made by experts on the development of a Revisions Committee and its terms of reference as set out in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/9 and asked that the annex of this document be submitted to the Working Party on Rail Transport, as amended during the session, for adoption.

C. Guidance notes on the Model Rules

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/10

14. The secretariat introduced this item explaining that the informal session of the Group at the start of June had identified the potential need to develop a non-binding Guidance Note for the Model Rules. Document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/10 has been prepared for this purpose. The secretariat explained that this Guidance Note was to be considered non-binding but that it could help in the implementation of the Model Rules. It was also explained that the Guidance Note would be kept updated by the Revisions Committee if it was to be established by the Working Party on Rail Transport.

15. The Group discussed the document and noted that it met the current requirements for this document. Experts requested that the following changes be made to the document:

- The addition, in the description of Appendix 2 within the Guidance Note, that “Separate rail bogies connected to compatible road vehicles” are to be considered as an item of Railway Rolling Stock.
- Removal of the words “and human readable” from the last sentence of the description within the Guidance Note of Appendix 1 Colour.
- The addition of images relating to Exhibits 1 to 3 that illustrate as examples the various items of Railway Rolling Stock.
- The carrying out of minor editorial changes.

16. The Group of Experts welcomed the creation of the non-binding, Guidance Note as set out in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/10, noted that this document would be useful going forward to support the Model Rules and asked that the annex of this document be submitted to the Working Party on Rail Transport, as amended during the session, for adoption, to then be updated by the Revisions Committee going forward.

IV. Report on the execution of the mandate of the Group (agenda item 3)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/11

17. The secretariat reminded the Group that, as the current mandate for the Group finishes with the sixth meeting, a report of the outcomes of the Group needed to be prepared and submitted to the Working Party on Rail Transport. The secretariat prepared document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/11 setting out the work and achievements of the Group during this mandate. The secretariat presented the document and highlighted the choices that the Group may wish to make to finalise the document.

18. The Group noted that in its decisions within agenda item 2 it had agreed to the drafting of the Model Rules, the Terms of Reference to the Revisions Committee, and the draft Guidance Note as amended. It had also agreed to submit these documents for adoption to the Working Party on Rail Transport.

19. Experts asked that the following changes be made to document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/11 before submission:

- Paragraph 13 is amended in the last sentence to replace the words “this document” with “the Guidance Note”.
- Paragraph 20 is amended to say: “In considering the adoption of the Terms of Reference of the Revisions Committee it proposes that the Working Party on Rail Transport consider inviting the parties identified in paragraph 12 above to nominate experts to act as members of the Revisions Committee.”
- Paragraph 21 is amended to refer to the official languages of ECE rather than the three languages.
- A new paragraph 22 is added stating: “Supporting the development of the railways and the need to increase the visibility of the United Nations, the Group requests that the Working Party asks the secretariat to explore the possibility of adding the United Nations logo to the URVIS marker and establishing conditions for it use”.
- The carrying out of minor editorial changes.

20. The Group of Experts welcomed the Report of the Group as contained in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2022/11. It amended the document following the results of discussions during the sixth session and agreed to submit it to the Working Party on Rail Transport as the final output of the Group of Experts.

V. Other Business (agenda item 4)

21. No other business was identified during the session.

VI. Summary of Decisions (agenda item 5)

22. As agreed under agenda item 1, for this item the Group read through the draft report. The Group of Experts adopted its report of the sixth and final session of the Group of Experts under its current mandate. The Chair thanked all the experts for their diligent work throughout these three years and commended them for reaching a positive conclusion in such a short period of time.
