

# Economic and Social Council

Inland Transport Committee

7 July 2023

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Original: German

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)

Forty-second session

Geneva, 21-25 August 2023

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN): interpretation of the Regulations annexed to ADN

## 7.1.5.4.3 and 7.2.5.4.3 of ADN: Berthing outside the berthing areas specifically designated by the competent authority

Submitted by the Government of Germany

### *Summary*

**Related documents (cf. also Annex I):** ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/42 (report of the twentieth session, January 2012) paras. 63, 64  
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/44 (report of the twenty-first session, August 2012) para. 54

## Introduction

1. 7.1.5.4.3 and 7.2.5.4.3 of ADN stipulate that vessels carrying dangerous goods have to keep certain distances from various structures/areas while berthing outside the berthing areas specifically designated by the competent authority. “Civil engineering structures” are among these structures.

## Interpretation issue

2. Within the German Waterways and Shipping Administration, a discussion has been ongoing for some time on what specific structures are covered by the term “civil engineering structures”. This question is of importance not only at local (berthing location) but also at international level, since the answer is of great importance to all masters, also of foreign vessels, searching for a place to berth.

3. Germany already raised this issue in 2012 at the twentieth and twenty-first sessions of the Safety Committee. Unfortunately, since then, it has neither been possible to compose a whitelist of the “civil engineering structures” relevant to ADN nor has the Safety Committee been informed of the outcome of a study planned by the CCNR for the Rhine basin.

4. A set of regulations that is applicable at international or European level and deals with the definition of “civil engineering structures” is not known.

5. A very long list of “civil engineering structures” can be derived from German national civil engineering regulations (DIN 1076), including, in particular, the following structures (list non-exhaustive): bridge structures, tunnel structures, walls and sheet piling, water supply, sewage disposal and hydraulic engineering structures and facilities, other public supply network lines, structures for transport facilities, masts, flues, cooling towers, retaining structures, etc. It is irrelevant in this context whether these structures are above or below ground.

6. Such a wide understanding of the term “civil engineering structures” would make it difficult for masters to identify these structures along their route. Furthermore, it would considerably reduce the number of possible locations for berthing, while the number of berths designated by authorities is also limited.

7. Germany would like to know more about how the other Contracting Parties interpret the term “civil engineering structures” and what experience they have gained with regard to the resulting limitation of berthing locations. This exchange of experience might make it possible to interpret the term „civil engineering structures“ in 7.1.5.4.3 and 7.2.5.4.3 of ADN in a narrower sense, insofar as this is acceptable from the point of view of safety (prevention of damage to civil engineering structures in the event of incidents or accidents on vessels carrying dangerous goods). In a second step, it could be discussed how masters can identify the remaining structures.

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## Annex I

ECE/TRANS/ADN/WP.15/AC.2/42

### **"X. Any other business (agenda item 9)**

#### **A. Exchange of information on implementation of 7.1.5.4.3 and 7.2.5.4.3 (berthing distances)**

*Informal document: INF.11 (Germany)*

63. Delegations were invited to provide the information requested on the minimum distances between berthing zones established by competent authorities and residential zones/civil engineering structures, etc, set up in practice by the competent authorities of different countries.

64. The representative of the CCNR said that a study was underway on this subject for the Rhine basin."

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/44

### **"XI. Any other business (agenda item 10)**

#### **A. Minimum distances for berthing vessels outside of berthing areas specifically designated by the competent authority according to 7.1.5.4.3 and 7.2.5.4.3 of ADN**

*Informal document: INF.8 (Germany)*

54. The Safety Committee confirmed that the term "civil engineering structures" included any works of civil engineering such as bridges or tunnels. It was decided to compose a detailed list of the works in question so as to study the possible cases that might arise and to consider how the requirements should apply in each case."

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