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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)****Forty-third session**

Geneva, 22-26 January 2024

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Reports of informal working groups**Report of the third meeting of the informal working group on
certificates and other shipboard documents in electronic
form****Transmitted by the Government of the Netherlands* *****Summary*

Related documents: ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/41
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/86 (Paragraphs 75 and 76)
Informal document INF.14 of the fortieth session
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/82 (Paragraph 69)
Informal document INF.9 of the thirty-eighth session
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/78 (Paragraphs 9 and 10)
ECE TRANS/WP15/AC.2/2022/1
ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/80 (Paragraph 64)

* Distributed in German by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine under the symbol
CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WP.15/AC.2/2024/14

** A/78/6 (Sect. 20), table 20.5



1. The informal working group on certificates and other shipboard documents in electronic form held its third meeting on 17 – 18 October 2023 through a videoconference, members of the Austrian, Dutch, German and Luxembourg delegations, and representatives of the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) secretariat, European Barge Union (EBU), European Skippers Organization (ESO) and the ADN recommended classification societies attended the meeting. The informal working group continued its discussion on the tasks set out for the group in document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2022/1.
2. The group had a short discussion on the developments of telematics under the discussion at the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting and on the implementation process of the Regulation (EU) 2020/1056 on electronic Freight Transport Information (eFTI). The implementation process of eFTI is postponed to a later date. Since the discussions on the requirements for eFTI are still ongoing at the Joint Meeting, and the decisions made at the Joint Meeting will have a direct impact on the actors for inland navigation as well, the representatives of the inland navigation actors are invited to participate in these discussions at the Joint Meeting.
3. The informal working group also took note of document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/2023/12 - Section 9.1.3 – Certificate of approval (United Kingdom) for the 114th session of the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15). The document contains a proposal to amend the ADR to allow for the certificate of approval to be issued in an electronic format.

I. Discussion on the proposals

4. The informal working group discussed proposals for amendment of the ADN to reflect that the step 1 documents could be carried on board in an electronic format. The members recognized that it should be clear that the carriage of documents in an electronic format should be **an alternative** to the carriage of documents in physical form. To that end, the members decided that the wording of this option should closely resemble the wording of the headings of 8.1.2.1, 8.1.2.2 and 8.1.2.3: "..., the following documents shall be kept on board/the following documents shall be carried on board dry cargo vessels/the following documents shall be carried on board tank vessels".
5. Furthermore the group discussed that there is no need to prescribe a certain format for the documents. To that end, the group proposes to add the following text at the end of 8.1.2.1, 8.2.2 and 8.1.2.3: "The documents listed in paragraph(s) (x),(y) and (z) may be kept on board electronically in a human-readable format."
6. The informal working group also discussed whether the requirements of 5.4.0 are applicable to all electronically carried documents on board. The members were reminded that the work of the informal working group was based on the assumption that the requirements and possibilities described in 5.4.0 are only valid for the documents described in Chapter 5.4 and the vessel's substance list according 1.16.1.2.5 (referred to in 8.1.2.3 (g)), because of a special note at the end of the paragraph. Otherwise, no amendments would be necessary for Chapter 8. The informal working group requests the ADN Safety Committee to confirm this interpretation.
7. During the discussion on the step 1 documents the group identified some documents which should be accompanied with a form of a security feature (the documents described in 8.1.2.3 (c)). The informal working group had a discussion on the equivalence of e-signatures. Currently in the European Union three levels of e-signatures are recognized through the Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the *Council* on electronic identification and trust services (eIDAS regulation):
 - (a) Simple e-signatures such as for instance a handwritten signature on paper that you scan or write digitally to use in an e-mail or letter;
 - (b) Advanced e-signatures which secures your message or document with a certificate and a code (encrypted);

(c) Qualified e-signatures which secures your message or document with a qualified certificate (extra security and verification).

8. It was recognized that a simple e-signature could not be viewed as equivalent to the security features which are used for the current physical documents. However, it was noted that requiring anything more than the simple e-signature would mean that the issuing body (Classification societies for a large part of the documents) would need to have appropriate software to be able to issue documents with advanced (or qualified) e-signatures. The group therefore asks the Recommended ADN Classification Societies to verify which level of e-signatures they could issue.

9. The group decided that for the documents described in 8.1.2.3 (c) the format-free approach would not be sufficient. Therefore the group proposes, in advance of an answer of the Recommended ADN Classification Societies, to require a pdf-format for these documents, accompanied by an advanced e-signature, or at least equivalent.

10. With regard to the checklists required in 7.2.3.7.2.2 and 7.2.4.10.3 it was noted that the corresponding models in 8.6.3 and 8.6.4 for the time being do require two physical signatures. The ADN Safety Committee may consider if consequently two e-signatures should be required for electronic checklists, for example based on the legal quality and effects of those check lists.

II. Proposals

11. Amend 7.2.3.7.2.2 as follows (deleted text is stricken through, new text is bold and underlined):

“Before the degassing operation commences, the degassing vessel shall be earthed. The master of the degassing vessel or an expert according to 8.2.1.2 mandated by him and the operator of the reception facility shall have filled in and signed a checklist confirming with 8.6.4 of ADN.

The checklist shall be ~~printed~~ **provided** at least in languages understood by the master or the expert and the operator of the reception facility. **The checklist can be provided electronically if both sides agree, are able to use advanced e-signatures] and both sides get a copy.**

If a positive response to all the questions is not possible, degassing to a reception facility is only permitted with the consent of the competent authority.”

12. Amend 7.2.4.10.3 as follows (deleted text is stricken through, new text is bold and underlined):

“The checklist shall be ~~printed~~ **provided** at least in languages understood by the master and the person responsible for the handling at the shore facilities. **The checklist can be provided electronically if both sides agree, are able to use advanced e-signatures] and both sides get a copy.**”

13. Amend 8.1.2.1 as follows (deleted text is stricken through, new text is bold and underlined):

“In addition to the documents required by other regulations, the following documents shall be kept on board:

(...)

(d) A copy of the ADN with the latest version of its annexed Regulations ~~which may be a copy which can be consulted by electronic means at any time;~~

(...)

(k) For vessels which carry hose assemblies used for loading, unloading or delivering liquefied natural gas for the operation of the vessel, the inspection certificate and the documentation of the calculated maximum load stress prescribed in 8.1.6.2.

The documents listed in paragraphs (c), (d) and (h) may be kept on board electronically in a human-readable format.”

14. Add the following sentence at the end of 8.1.2.2 (new text is bold and underlined):
“The document listed in paragraph (a) may be kept on board electronically in a human-readable format.”
15. Add the following sentences at the end of 8.1.2.3 (new text is bold and underlined):
“The documents listed in paragraphs (a), (g), (i), (k), (m), (n) and (q) may be kept on board electronically in a human-readable format.
The documents listed in paragraphs (c) may be kept on board electronically in pdf-format according to ISO standard ISO 32000-1, accompanied by an advanced electronic signature according to Regulation (EU) 910/2014, or at least equivalent.”
16. Add to 8.1.5.1 a footnote to read as follows (new text is bold and underlined):
 “Insofar as the provisions of Chapter 3.2, Tables A or C require, the following equipment shall be available on board:
 PP: for each member of the crew, a pair of protective goggles, a pair of protective gloves, a protective suit and a suitable pair of protective shoes (or protective boots, if necessary). On board tank vessels, protective boots are required in all cases;
 EP: a suitable escape device for each person on board;
 EX: a gas detector;
 TOX: a toximeter appropriate for the current and previous cargo, with the accessories and instructions¹ for its use;
 A: a breathing apparatus ambient air-dependent.
¹ **The instructions could be kept on board electronically in a human-readable format.”**

III. Other items

17. A proposal to refer the certificate of approval, the provisional certificate of approval and the ADN specialized knowledge certificate to a newly created step 3 was discussed. In light of the information that the electronically issued certificates for seagoing vessels are stored, as far as known, in national databases which are easily accessible to the public via internet, which makes it possible to verify the validity independently, the informal working group would like to investigate whether such a system is also feasible for the register of certificates of approval required in 1.16.15 of ADN and the register of all valid certificates for experts required in 1.10.1.6 of ADN.
18. Several members shared information on the ways their governments already implement electronically issued documents, and ways on how to verify their validity. For instance through a QR code, or via a website where the document could be uploaded to prove its validity. It was however, recognized that in the international context of the ADN it could take more time to implement such a system for the ADN documents. To reflect this possibility, and the additional time it could take to develop, the group proposes to refer the certificate of approval, the provisional certificate of approval and the ADN specialized knowledge certificate to step 3. This proposal is reflected in the list of documents that can be found in the annex to this report.
19. The informal working group identified several documents, not mentioned in the lists of documents of 8.1, but which should be carried on board. The first is the gas-free certificate described in 7.2.3.7.1.6, 7.2.3.7.2.6 and 8.3.5. Since this document is a certificate the group decided to assign this document to the step 2 documents. Secondly the documents mentioned in 7.1.7.4.1 (b) and (c), these are documents to be used for the transport of cargoes under temperature control. Since Chapter 7.1.7 is harmonized through the Joint Meeting it was

decided that decisions on the dematerialization of these documents should be made by the Joint Meeting. These documents have been added to the list of documents that can be found in the annex to this report.

IV. Agenda

20. The informal working group would like to continue its discussions on the equivalence of e-signatures also for the step 2 documents and the discussion on the options how to enable the dematerialization for the step 3 documents.

V. Action to be taken

21. The ADN Safety Committee is requested to consider the report of the informal working group and to take action as it deems appropriate.

Annex**Certificates and other documents to be reviewed for dematerialization**

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>certificates</i>	<i>other documents</i>	<i>Dematerialization possible?</i>	<i>remarks</i>
ALL ADN - VESSELS					
8.1.2.1 (a)	Certificate of approval	x		Step 3	
8.1.2.1 (a)	Provisional certificate of approval	x		Step 3	
8.1.2.1 (b)	Transport documents				Electronic transport document under the competency of the Joint Meeting
8.1.2.1 (c)	Instructions		x	Step 1	
8.1.2.1 (d)	ADN (latest version)				Already possible
8.1.2.1 (e)	Inspection certificate of the isolation resistance of the electrical installations and equipments	x		Step 2	
8.1.2.1 (f)	Certificate concerning the inspection of the fire-extinguishing hoses	x		Step 2	
8.1.2.1 (f)	Certificate concerning the inspection of the special equipment	x		Step 2	
8.1.2.1 (g)	Book with required measurement results		x	Step 2	This document needs to be filled in
8.1.2.1 (h)	Copy of the relevant text of the special authorisations		x	Step 1	
8.1.2.1 (i)	Means of identification	x		no	Digital ID might be accepted if it is a Nationally accepted means of identification
8.1.2.1 (k)	Inspection certificate	x		Step 2	
8.1.2.1 (k)	Documentation of the calculated maximum load stress	x		Step 2	
DRY CARGO VESSELS					
8.1.2.2 (a)	Stowage plan		x	Step 1	
8.1.2.2 (b)	ADN specialized knowledge certificate	x		Step 3	
8.1.2.2 (c)	Damage-control plan	x		Step 2	
8.1.2.2 (c)	Documents on intact stability	x		Step 1	
8.1.2.2 (c)	Certificate of the recognized classification society	x		Step 2	
8.1.2.2 (d)	Inspection certificate for fixed fire extinguishing systems	x		Step 2	

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>certificates</i>	<i>other documents</i>	<i>Dematerialization possible?</i>	<i>remarks</i>
8.1.2.2 (e)	General plan indicating the fixed installations and equipment suitable for use at least in zone 1		x	Step 2	
8.1.2.2 (f)	List of or a general plan indicating the fixed installations and equipment which are not authorized for use during loading and unloading, during a stay near to or within an onshore assigned zone		x	Step 2	
8.1.2.2 (g)	Plan indicating the boundaries of the zones and the location of the electrical and non-electrical equipment installed in the relevant zones intended for use in explosion hazardous areas		x	Step 2	
8.1.2.2 (h)	List of installations and equipment in case of electrical equipment for use in zone 1 in case of electrical equipment for use in zone 2 and in the case of non-electrical equipment for use in zone 1 and zone 2		x	Step 2	
TANKVESSELS					
8.1.2.3 (a)	Stowage plan		x	Step 1	
8.1.2.3 (b)	ADN specialized knowledge certificate	x		Step 3	
8.1.2.3 (c)	Damage-control plan		x	Step 1	
8.1.2.3 (c)	Documents concerning intact stability		x	Step 1	
8.1.2.3 (c)	Proof of the loading instrument		x	Step 1	
8.1.2.3 (e)	Certificate of class	x		Step 2	
8.1.2.3 (f)	Certificates concerning the inspection of the gas detection systems and the oxygen measuring system	x		Step 2	
8.1.2.3 (g)	Vessel substance list		x	Step 1	
8.1.2.3 (h)	Inspection certificate for the hose assemblies for loading and unloading	x		Step 2	
8.1.2.3 (i)	Instructions relating to the loading and unloading flows		x	Step 1	
8.1.2.3 (j)	Inspection certificate of the cargo pump-rooms	x		Step 2	
8.1.2.3 (k)	Heating instructions		x	Step 1	
8.1.2.3 (m)	registration document referred to in 8.1.11		x	Step 1	
8.1.2.3 (n)	For the carriage of refrigerated substances, the instruction required		x	Step 1	

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>certificates</i>	<i>other documents</i>	<i>Dematerialization possible?</i>	<i>remarks</i>
8.1.2.3 (o)	Certificate concerning the refrigeration system	x		Step 2	
8.1.2.3 (p)	inspection certificates concerning the fixed fire extinguishing systems	x		Step 2	
8.1.2.3 (q)	Determination of the holding time and documentation on the heat transmission coefficient		x	Step 1	
8.1.2.3 (r)	A list of or a general plan indicating the fixed installations and equipment suitable to be used at least in zone 1		x	Step 2	
8.1.2.3 (s)	list of or a general plan indicating the fixed installations and equipment which are not authorized for use during loading and unloading, degassing or during a stay near to or within an onshore assigned zone		x	Step 2	
8.1.2.3 (t)	Plan approved by a recognized classification society indicating the boundaries of the zones		x	Step 2	
8.1.2.3 (u)	List of installations and equipment in the case of electrical equipment for use in zone 0 or zone 1 and, in the case of non-electrical equipment for use in zone 0 in the case of electrical equipment for use in zone 2 and in the case of non-electrical equipment for use in zone 1 and zone 2 Self-protection system		x	Step 2	
8.1.2.3 (v)	list of or general plan indicating the fixed installations and equipment installed outside the explosion hazardous areas		x	Step 2	
8.1.2.3 (w)	Certificates required under 3.2.3.1, Explanations concerning Table C, explanatory note for column (20), remark 12	x		Step 2	
8.1.2.3 (x)	Certificates required under 3.2.3.1, Explanations concerning Table C, explanatory note for column (20), remark 33	x		Step 2	
ALL ADN - VESSELS					
8.1.5.1	Instructions for the use of toximeters		x	Step 1	
8.1.7.3	Certificate on repair of explosion-protected installations and equipment			Step 2	Proposed new 8.1.2.1 (l)
8.6.3	ADN Checklist		x	Step 2	

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>certificates</i>	<i>other documents</i>	<i>Dematerialization possible?</i>	<i>remarks</i>
8.6.4	Checklist degassing to reception facilities Other documents		x	Step 2	
7.1.7.4.1 (b) and (c)	Instructions to the carrier on refrigeration system and procedures to be followed in the event of loss of control		x		Under the competency of the Joint Meeting
7.2.3.7.1.6 7.2.3.7.2.6 and 8.3.5	Gas free certificate	x		Step 2	