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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the  
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods  
(Geneva, 13-23 September 2005)

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Report of the informal working group on the examination of the safety adviser in  
accordance with 1.8.3**

**held in Madrid from 6 to 7 June 2005**

**Transmitted by the Government of Spain \*/**

**Introduction**

1. At the last session of the Joint Meeting, Spain volunteered to host an informal meeting with the mandate set out in annex 1. The meeting, which was only open to governmental delegations, including representatives of examination bodies, was attended by delegates from the following countries and international delegations: Austria, Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom. The European Commission and the UNECE were also represented.

2. Relevant documents for the meeting were the Record of the Forum on the provisions concerning the safety adviser, held in Paris in June 2004 (TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2005/12 and its Addendum), the report of the last Joint Meeting session (TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/98), and the documents sent by participants related to examination topics already set in their countries.

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\*/ Circulated by the Central Office for International Carriage by Rail (OCTI) under the symbol OCTI/RID/GT-III/2005/48.

### **Independence of the examination body and the teaching body**

3. The meeting started with a discussion regarding the independence of the examination body and the training body. It was recalled that the Joint Meeting acknowledged the principle of the need for independence when the same legal entity was responsible both for training and examining. Irrespective of whether the examining body and training body belonged to the same legal entity or not, it was agreed that the examining body should not be a training provider. On this basis, a proposal to amend 1.8.3.10 was prepared (see annex 2).

### **Examination arrangements: anonymity of papers**

4. With regard to the written examinations, it was agreed that there was a need to ensure that the candidate remained anonymous for the marker, and a proposal to amend 1.8.3.12 was drafted to that effect.

### **Examination arrangements: use of electronic devices**

5. The examination arrangements were also brought to discussion, in particular the means allowed to the candidate in the examination room. After a lengthy debate, it was agreed that only Regulations (both international and national) should be allowed to be used during the written examination.

6. A majority of participants were not in favour of electronic devices being brought by the candidates in to the written examination, due to the difficulty in controlling the misuse of this type of devices.

7. A common position was also agreed regarding the fact that the Competent Authority was responsible for limiting the access to information. Some participants were of the opinion that, to ensure that every candidate had access to the same information, the best way through was that the examining body provided the means which the candidate could use. Other participants showed the difficulty to provide this means when a huge number of candidates are taking the examination at the same time.

8. After consideration of several written draft proposals to amend 1.8.3.12, the majority of participants were able to accept the proposal set out in annex 2. The proposal also takes into account the possible use of electronic presentations when taking an oral examination.

### **Data Bank of questions and case studies at UN level**

9. The working group also considered the possibility of setting up conditions for the use and organisation of national data bases of questions and case studies. It was recalled that the Joint Meeting had approved the principle of collecting a list of queries and case studies for all modes of transport, to be transmitted on a voluntary basis, making them available on the UNECE website, with protected access. The majority of participants were of the opinion that restricted access should be retained. At this point, the representative of the UNECE secretariat informed that, for the time being, only one country had sent documentation, and that arrangements were being made to have a secure site for this goal on the UNECE website.

10. It was agreed that all the documentation sent by participants of the working group for the purpose of this meeting could already be made available for that data bank, after security conditions on the UN website had been implemented. Some participants proposed that all the exams already made during this year should also be sent.

11. Finally, the majority agreed that, when sufficient data are available, a small, specialised working group could be created, only with participants of countries that had sent samples of questions and case studies, with the mandate of analysing in depth the contents of the data bank, and report on their conclusions.

12. A question was raised about funding for the working group. The representative of the European Commission offered to arrange the meeting, in Brussels, but, for the time being, no funding would be available from the Commission.

### **Achieving harmonization on examination conditions and difficulty level**

13. The working group took note of the documentation sent by Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

14. It was noted that different practices are used when arranging examinations and that achieving harmonization on the level of difficulty and on the conditions of examinations should be assessed by the specialised working group to be set up. Some participants expressed their reservations on the merits of analysing in depth the different systems.

15. Some approaches were made, in particular regarding the multiple choice questions and the number of questions related to national and international Regulations.

### **Any other business**

16. The representative of Spain made a presentation on the management of Dangerous Goods Adviser's Annual Report, for information since this issue did not fall within the terms of reference of the working group (Available as informal document INF.3 on the website of the UNECE for this September 2005 session of the Joint Meeting).

**Annex 1**

Terms of reference for the working group on the examination of the safety adviser  
in accordance with 1.8.3

(See TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/98, Annex 3)

1. Exchange of information and elaboration of proposals to amend the regulations regarding the following points:
    - organization of the examination (independence of the examining body)
    - examination arrangements.
  2. Consider the possibility of setting up conditions for the use and organization of national data bases of questions and case studies.
  3. Organizing future work on achieving a harmonized level of difficulty for examinations (both questions and case studies). Each competent authority wishing to participate in the working group is invited to send examination topics including questions and case studies previously set (selection of 2 or 3 significant examinations) and a description of the conditions of the examination, preferably in English, to the Spanish competent authority.
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**Annex 2**

**Proposals of amendments to RID/ADR/ADN**

Proposal 1

Add in 1.8.3.10 a new second sentence to read as follows: "The examining body shall not be a training provider".

Proposal 2

Amend 1.8.3.12 to read as follows:

**"1.8.3.12      *Examinations***

1.8.3.12.1      The examination shall consist of a written test which may be supplemented by an oral examination.

1.8.3.12.2      Anonymity of the candidates shall be ensured when written examinations are marked.

1.8.3.12.3      The use in written examination of documentation other than international or national regulations is not permitted.

1.8.3.12.4      Electronic media may be used only if provided by the examining body. [There shall be no means of a candidate introducing further data to the electronic media provided, other than answers to examination questions.]

[1.8.3.12.5      Oral examinations may utilise electronic presentations if authorised by the examining body.]".

Insert a new 1.8.3.12.6 with the text of the second paragraph of current 1.8.3.12 (from "The written examination..." to "... the task of adviser.").

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