

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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Interpretation

Driver training in directive 2008/68/EC i.e. ADR and in directive 2003/59/EC

1. Training of drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods shall cover both theoretical courses and practical exercises. According to sub-section 8.2.2.3.8 in ADR the individual practical exercises shall take place in connection with the theoretical training, and shall at least cover first aid, fire-fighting and what to do in case of an incident or accident.

2. EU Member States are also obliged to follow other directives than directive 2008/68/EC, e.g. directive 2003/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2003 on the initial qualification and periodic training of drivers of certain road vehicles for the carriage of goods or passengers. Also directive 2003/59/EC requires a periodic training which the driver shall undergo every five years. Although directive 2003/59/EC does not cover all situations where transport of dangerous goods requires an ADR-training certificate, Sweden believes it could be discussed whether training or exercises of first aid and fire-fighting could be rationalized between the two training events.

3. There are two options in directive 2003/59/EC concerning driver training;

- Combining both course attendance and a test or
- An option involving only tests.

4. Sweden follows option number one with both training and test.

5. In section I, 3.5 to Annex 1 in directive 2003/59/EC, the objective for the ability to assess emergency situations is pointed out;

“behaviour in an emergency situation: assessment of the situation, avoiding complications of an accident, summoning assistance, assisting casualties and giving first aid, reaction in the event of fire, evacuation of occupants of a lorry/bus passengers, ensuring the safety of all passengers, reaction in the event of aggression; basic principles for the drafting of an accident report.”

These two training activities involving first aid and fire-fighting - according to directive 2003/59/EC and directive 2008/68/EC- can occur rather simultaneously or at a time difference of 2,5 years.

Discussion

6. Is it necessary to require two training activities which seem quite similar only because two different directives/agreements say so?

7. Is it necessary to require individual practical exercises to take place in connection with the theoretical training according to sub-section 8.2.2.3.8 in ADR even if a driver

could show a certificate that he or she has participated in a training involving first aid and fire-fighting.
