

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

23 December 2010

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)****Eighteenth session**

Geneva, 24–27 January 2011

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to the Regulations annexed to ADN

Obligations of recommended classification societies (1.15.4)**Submitted by Germany and Switzerland¹****Introduction**

1. Recommended and recognised classification societies undertake important tasks in the construction and supervision of vessels transporting dangerous goods and play an important part in setting the safety standards of the vessels. There is therefore a need to ensure that the rules governing classification societies correspond to equivalent standards.

2. Even today classification societies, which are active under the ADN Agreement or which would like to be active, are required under sub-section 1.15.4.1 to exercise mutual cooperation. In order to ensure regular cooperation, the ADN should be amended accordingly, whereby the amendment should clarify that the rules governing classification societies should promptly be adapted to the provisions of the ADN and that the competent authorities are to be duly notified.

¹ Distributed in German by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine under the symbol CCNR/ZKR/ADN/WP.15/AC.2/18/INF.08.

Proposal

3. Section 1.15.4 to be worded as follows:

1.15.4 Obligations of recommended classification societies

1.15.4.1 Recommended classification societies shall undertake to cooperate with one another so as to guarantee the equivalence of their technical standards, their implementation **and their coordinated continued development. This shall also involve participation at an information exchange, to take place at least once a year, organized and chaired by the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.**

1.15.4.2 Recommended classification societies shall undertake to bring their requirements into line with the present and future provisions of this Agreement **in a timely manner. Recommended classification societies shall provide the competent authorities with all relevant information regarding the technical requirements. They shall allow the monitoring of the re-certification of their quality management systems by the competent authorities.**

Explanatory statement

4. It has been seen in the past that co-operation between classification societies has been rather limited. As far as is known, individual technical questions have primarily been discussed between members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS). In future, classification societies that are not members of the IACS should be involved in this co-operation.

These additions are designed to underline the importance of co-operation. The amendment will serve to promote the exchange of information, the comparison of technical requirements and ensure that the Safety Committee is kept informed at regular intervals by the classification societies recommended for recognition.

In order to prevent divergence between the technical requirements of the classification societies and the provisions of the ADN and thus avoid problems in the construction and operation of the vessels, the regulations of the classification societies should be updated continuously. It clarifies that the recommended classification societies are required to inform the competent authorities when needed and that a re-certification of the quality management system may be monitored by the competent authorities.

These additions would lead to a further improvement in safety levels in the carriage of dangerous goods on inland waterways.
