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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs****Sixty-eighth session**

Geneva, 22–25 October 2012

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**ATP Handbook****Additional comments to annex 2, appendix 1, of the ATP Handbook for the proper placement of instruments to measure, record and store air temperatures in transport equipment during the carriage of quick-frozen foodstuffs and on placement specifications to ensure safety****Transmitted by the Government of the Russian Federation***Summary*

- Executive summary:** Annex 2, appendix 1, of ATP contains requirements for an instrument capable of measuring and recording air temperatures and storing the data obtained (hereinafter referred to as the instrument) when quick-frozen foodstuffs for human consumption are carried.
- However, annex 2, appendix 1, of ATP does not contain requirements for the placement or protection of the measuring instrument. The lack of such requirements has in some cases meant that the instruments have been placed in locations that do not meet some of the ATP standards and requirements.
- Therefore, there is a need to specify the possibilities for the proper placement of such instruments and the requirements for their protection.
- Action to be taken:** Introduce additional comments to annex 2, appendix 1, of the ATP Handbook setting out possible appropriate locations for the placement of measuring instruments and requirements for their protection.
- Related documents:** None.

## Introduction

1. At the sixty-sixth session of the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs (WP.11), the Russian Federation submitted a working document (ECE/TRANS/WP.11/2010/9) proposing a new version of annex 2, appendix 1, of ATP setting out terminology for the instruments used to measure, record and store air temperatures during the carriage of quick-frozen foodstuffs, establishing requirements for the frequency of such measurements and recordings and specifying the placement of the instruments in the transport equipment.

2. At its sixty-sixth session WP.11 agreed to introduce the proposed amendments setting out the terminology in the first three paragraphs of annex 2, appendix 1, subject to minor changes, and to introduce relevant comments regarding the frequency of such air temperature measurements and recordings in the ATP Handbook. However, it was suggested in the end that the additional provisions of annex 2, appendix 1, regarding the placement of the instrument proposed by the Russian Federation should be submitted in final form at the sixty-seventh session of WP.11, taking into consideration the need to ensure that the instruments are properly protected, including during loading and unloading.

3. The Russian Federation submitted a working document (ECE/TRANS/WP.11/2011/18) at the sixty-seventh session, which took into consideration the comments made at the sixty-sixth session. During the discussion of the document submitted by the Russian Federation a number of countries made new comments. For example, Germany stated that its own practice with respect to the placement of the instrument was at variance with the proposal of the Russian Federation insofar as it sought to ensure to the greatest extent possible the protection of the instrument, including during loading and unloading. Sweden expressed doubt about the need to indicate the placement of the instrument in such a detailed manner. Following the discussion of the document submitted by the Russian Federation, a request was made to submit a revised and updated official proposal on this item at the sixty-eighth session of WP.11, taking into account the comments made.

4. The Russian Federation has once again considered all aspects related to the placement and protection of the instruments and consequently proposes to add comments to annex 2, appendix 1, of the ATP Handbook specifying the possible appropriate locations for their placement and the requirements for their protection.

5. The Russian Federation submits herewith the relevant working document for consideration.

## Proposals

6. Add the following comment to annex 2, appendix 1, of the ATP Handbook:

*“4. The measuring instrument should be placed in the following areas inside the body of the transport equipment:*

- In the case of upper cold air distribution systems, near (to the left or right of) the bottom of the doorway furthest away from the refrigeration unit;*
- In the case of lower cold air distribution systems, in the middle of the portion above the doorway furthest away from the refrigeration unit;*
- For other transport equipment or if the measuring instrument is placed elsewhere, in the area with the highest air temperature, in accordance with the requirements of annex 2, paragraph 2, of ATP.*

5. *The instrument shall be adequately protected to avoid damage caused by moving parts of equipment or contact with cargo items during loading and unloading or shifting or partial or complete collapse of stacks of cargo during carriage.*

*No means of protection of the instruments (e.g. protective housing or placement of the measurement instrument in a protective housing in a recess in a wall of the transport equipment, if any) should affect the accuracy of the air temperature measurements inside the transport equipment.*

*A reference measurement should be taken of the air temperature inside the transport equipment before the loading door is closed, so as to ensure that the measuring instrument is in good working order.”*

## **Justification**

7. In the Russian Federation’s view it is crucial to ensure that all Contracting Parties meet the ATP requirements in an agreed manner in order to preserve the quality of transported perishable foodstuffs. This, among other things, requires specifying the ATP provisions for the measurement of air temperature inside transport equipment during the carriage of quick-frozen foodstuffs.

8. Most of the issues related to air temperature measurement and recording in transport equipment during the carriage of quick-frozen foodstuffs should be resolved once the new comments to the ATP Handbook proposed by the Russian Federation are approved.

## **Costs**

9. No additional costs.

## **Feasibility**

10. The proposed new comments in the ATP Handbook will provide a framework for common principles of air temperature measurement and recording in transport equipment during the carriage of quick-frozen foodstuffs.

## **Enforceability**

11. No problems are expected for the provision of the relevant instruments for the transport equipment. The manufacturing sector of ATP Contracting Parties produces a wide range of such instruments. In addition, the refitting of transport equipment should not pose any serious problems.

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