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Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

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Item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda

MONITORING OF WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS OF LOADING UNITS
IN INTERMODAL TRANSPORT

Transport of 45ft long ISO containers on the European road network

Note by the secretariat

I. MANDATE

1. At its forty-third session in March 2005, the Working Party had adopted an opinion on the proposal of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to standardize 45 ft (13,716 mm) long containers (TRANS/WP.24/107, paragraphs 20-22 and annex). This opinion, alluding also to Council Directive 96/53EC of 25 July 1996 applicable in the European Union, stated that "... there is no indication that Governments would allow for longer vehicle dimensions on the European road network to accommodate the proposed 45 ft long ISO container." As 45 ft long ISO containers are 9 cm longer than the maximum allowable length in the EC Directive, such containers would normally no longer be allowed to be transported in national transport operations within the European Union after 31 December 2006.

2. On 27 November 2006 the Commission of the European Communities issued a staff working document interpreting EC Directive 96/53EC in such a way as to allow, as of 1 January 2007, continued national transport of 45 ft long ISO containers as “indivisible loads” or under a so-called “modular concept” if EU member States so decide individually.
3. At its forty-seventh session, the Working Party considered a document prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/2) and decided to inquire from all UNECE member States whether they would allow the transport of 45 ft long ISO containers on their national road network (ECE/TRANS/WP.24/115, paragraphs 33-35).
4. The questionnaire that has been circulated on 3 July 2007 by the UNECE secretariat to UNECE member countries is provided below. Replies received will be contained in an Addendum to the present document.
5. For more information on this issue, please refer to document ECE/TRANS/WP.24/2007/2.

II. QUESTIONNAIRE

Questionnaire Transport by road of 45 ft long ISO and pallet-wide containers ¹		
Country:		
		Yes No
1. Is national road transport of <u>45 foot long ISO containers</u> permissible under the road transport regulations of your country? (ISO container: Length: 13,716 mm; Width: 2,438 mm)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is national road transport of <u>45 foot long pallet-wide containers</u> permissible under the road transport regulations of your country? (Pallet-wide container: Length: 13,716 mm; Width: 2,500 mm or 2,550 mm)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Do you allow exceptions for national road transport of 45 ft long containers? If yes:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What are the reasons for these exceptions? ² Describe:		
What are the administrative arrangements for the provision of these exceptions? (individual, type exceptions (for example terminal hauls, etc.)) Describe:		
Who is the responsible authority providing these exceptions? Give name:		
Are these exceptions applicable to national and foreign operators alike (non-discriminatory)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are there plans in your country to modify the maximum permissible dimensions applicable for national road transport of goods?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please explain:		
Please return this duly filled-in questionnaire to the UNECE secretariat <u>before 20 July 2007</u> , by: - E-mail: wp.24@unece.org ³ - Fax: +41-22-917-0039 or - Mail: Office 410, Palais des Nations, Avenue de la Paix, 8-14, CH-1211 Geneva.		

¹ The term container refers here also to all loading units used in road transport, such as trailers, semi-trailers, containers, swap-bodies, etc.

² For example, within the EU, exceptions within the framework of Directive 96/53/EC refer to “indivisible loads” (article 4(3)) and “modular concepts” (article 4(4)).

³ Download questionnaire from <www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html>.