

---

## Economic Commission for Europe

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

##### 108th session

Geneva, 10-13 November 2020

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Any other business

9 November 2020

### **Competent Authority Approvals/Certificates – language barriers for enforcement**

#### **Transmitted by the Government of the United Kingdom**

#### **Introduction**

1. In the United Kingdom, enforcement officers for the carriage of dangerous goods perform vehicle checks at the roadside as part of their enforcement strategy. Transport documentation is a part of these checks.
2. Paragraph 5.4.1.4.1 requires that the transport document be drafted in an official language of the forwarding country, and also, if that language is not English, French or German, in English, French or German (unless tariffs or agreements allow otherwise).
3. Where additional information is required such as competent authority approvals or classification approval certificates for Class 1 (in 5.4.1.2.1 c), d) and g)), this is also required in an official language of the forwarding country and in English, French or German (unless agreements allow otherwise).
4. However, the particulars of these documents cannot always be easily understood when written in a language not spoken by the enforcer.

#### **Discussion**

5. Ideally, where the United Kingdom is the destination country, our preference would be that – where available - the English language version of competent authority approvals/certificates is provided. However, we understand the need for flexibility, and that consignments often travel through a number of countries with different official languages during their journeys.
  6. We would like to know:
    - How other competent authorities deal with the issue of enforcing documentation that is written in languages not always spoken by enforcement officers.
    - Whether competent authorities required to produce these approvals in more than one language produce documentation in more than one of English, French and German, thereby providing options to the consignor.
-