


Economic Commission for Europe
Inland Transport Committee
Working Party on Rail Transport
Group of Experts on Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock
Third session

Geneva, 6–7 May 2021

**Report of the third session of the Group of Experts on
 Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock**
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I. Attendance

1. The Group of Experts on Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock (PIRRS or the Group) held its third session from 6 to 7 May 2021 as a hybrid meeting, taking place simultaneously online and in-person in Geneva.
2. The session of the Group of Experts was attended by representatives of the following countries: Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy and Russian Federation.
3. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations were present: the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), Organization For Co-Operation Between Railways (OSJD) and European Union Agency for Railways (ERA).
4. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: The Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER), and Rail Working Group (RWG).
5. Representatives of the following organizations, private industry groups and academia attended the session: Hupac Intermodal SA, Managing Company “NefteTransService” and RAILTRANS LLC.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)*

Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2021/1

6. The Group of Experts adopted the draft agenda (as contained in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2021/1) noting with dissatisfaction the limited time available for deliberations due to limitations imposed by the UN Office of Geneva on meeting room allocation and interpretation resources which is having an impact on the work of the Group.

III. Background to the Group of Experts (agenda item 2)**

7. The Group noted that there were no discussions planned under this agenda item as the background of the group had been covered extensively in previous sessions.
8. The Group agreed to remove the agenda item “Background to the Group” for future session.

IV. Development of the Unique Rail Vehicle Identification System (agenda item 3)

A. Best practice in, and national requirements for, rolling stock marking

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2021/3, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2021/5

9. Following a brief introduction by the secretariat, the RWG presented document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2021/3, on unique identifiers in the maritime sector. This presentation was followed by a presentation from the Russian Federation of document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2021/5 on practices in the Russian Federation relating to rolling stock marking.

10. The Group of Experts welcomed the presentations by the Rail Working Group and the Russian Federation on best practices in, and national requirements for, rolling stock markings and invited other experts to provide their experiences at future meetings.

* Information on the session is available at <https://unece.org/transport/documents/2020/12/agendas/annotated-provisional-agenda-second-session>.

** Presentations from the workshop are available at <https://unece.org/transport/events/sc2pirrs-group-experts-permanent-identification-railway-rolling-stock-2nd-session>.

B. Use cases and the placing of the URVIS number on rolling stock

Document: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2021/4

11. The Rail Working Group presented document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2021/4 on use cases for the placing of URVIS numbers.

12. The Group of Experts welcomed the presentations by the Rail Working Group on different use cases and invited other experts to provide their experiences at future meetings.

C. Technological component

Documents: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2020/11, Informal document SC.2/PIRRS No. 3 (2021)

13. The secretariat introduced informal document SC.2/PIRRS No. 3 (2021) summarising the answers received to the questionnaire included in ECE/TRANS/SC.2/PIRRS/2020/11. Following this introduction, the Rail Working Group shared a presentation starting to highlight potential decisions to be made how to affix the URVIS numbers to rolling stock. Discussions in this agenda item covered such things as how the number should be affixed, in how many places, what material to use for the plates, what text should appear (and in what language should it appear) on the plate, etc. It was noted that the cost of this affixing may be high.

14. The Group highlighted the importance of progressing with discussions in this area and that it should be discussed in more detail at upcoming sessions.

15. The Group of Experts welcomed the discussion on the manner in which the rolling stock should be marked and asked the secretariat, in conjunction with the Rail Working Group to prepare a proposal on possible options for the marking of the assets for discussion at the next session starting from the baseline that the marking could be based on plates.

D. Identification of possible solutions

Documents: Informal document SC.2/PIRRS No. 1 (2021), Informal document SC.2/PIRRS No. 2 (2021)

16. Under this agenda item the Group discussed the Draft Regulations for the International Registry (Informal document SC.2/PIRRS No. 2 (2021)) and the proposal for the model rules for the affixing of the URVIS number as proposed by the Russian Federation (Informal document SC.2/PIRRS No. 1 (2021)). Discussions on the Informal document SC.2/PIRRS No. 2 (2021) focused on the requirements as set out in the Draft Regulations and how they will need to be implemented by contracting parties. Delegates also discussed how the work being done in this Group of Experts fits into the work of the International Registry and the fact that the mandate of the Group is limited to the permanent affixing of the URVIS number and does not cover the workings of the International Registry.

17. The Russian Federation presented the Informal document SC.2/PIRRS No. 1 (2021) and explained how this was a first attempt at bringing together the requirements of potential model rules and that further work within the Group would be required to finalise this document. Experts welcomed this document as an important stepping stone in achieving the mandate of the Group of Experts and started discussions on areas of further work. The Group also mentioned that it would need to consider how to establish a mechanism for the updating of the model rules following their initial acceptance and adoption.

18. The Group of Experts welcomed the introduction on the Draft Regulations for the International Registry provided by the Rail Working Group as well as the proposed Model Rules document prepared by the Russian Federation.

19. The Group welcomed initial discussion on the model rules and asked the experts to provide their feedback on the document by 15 June for consolidation by the secretariat in a document to be made available in three languages for discussion at the next session.

20. The Group noted the discussion on the procedure for updating the model rules going forward.

21. The Group decided to merge the discussions under agenda items 3(c) to 3(g) for future meetings.

V. Other business (agenda item 4)

22. No “Other Business” was discussed other than to reiterate document deadlines for translation prior to the next meeting.

23. The Group of Experts reminded delegates that any document to be submitted for the next session should be sent to the secretariat no later than 24 June 2021.

VI. Date of next session (agenda item 5)

24. The Group of Experts agreed to provisionally schedule its next meeting for 13–15 September 2021.

VII. Summary of decisions (agenda item 6)

25. The Group of Experts approved its draft list of decisions.
