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## Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

### Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)

#### Thirty-first session

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques

## Report on recent developments in the sectoral initiatives

Submitted by the initiative coordinators

### *Summary*

This document presents the main results achieved by the sectoral initiatives under the Ad Hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START) as of August 2021, reports on the progress in the completion of the project plan and presents priorities for 2022.

#### *Mandate*

At its twenty-ninth plenary session, the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) mandated the secretariat and the coordinators to continue to report on an annual basis on their activities.

#### *Proposed decision:*

“The Working Party adopts the report on the sectoral initiatives. It requests the ECE secretariat and START to continue to report on an annual basis on these activities”.

## I. Introduction

1. Regulatory cooperation on specific areas of activity is an important part of the work of WP.6, aiming to reduce non-tariff barriers to trade. Since its establishment in 1999, the STandardization And Regulatory Techniques (START) team has advocated that the content of technical regulations should revolve around the definition of essential requirements. The sectoral initiatives aim to contribute to this objective.

## II. Sectoral initiative on earth-moving machinery

2. The initiative on earth-moving machinery (EMM) was established in 2003 with an aim to help foster mutual recognition of conformity assessment procedures on the basis of *Recommendation L on International Model for Transnational Regulatory Cooperation Based on Good Regulatory Practice*. The Common Regulatory Objectives (CROs) (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6.2011/8) for the safety requirement of EMM were established in 2004 and revised in 2009. Work has been continuing on the development of a model certificate of conformity, that, if broadly adopted, would make data exchange easier between the producers, machine users, third-party certifiers and authorities of exporting and importing countries.

3. Much of the work within this area is based upon the work of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee on Earth-moving machinery (TC 127). This standard is widely supported by the industry and by the members of this WP.6 initiative. CROs support the standards of ISO/TC 127 and the initiative members have done a good deal of dissemination of this work in countries around the world (i.e. China, India, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates as well as member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)).

4. Within this reporting period, the activities of this initiative were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Members had a number of informal email exchanges and discussions. It was agreed that training and promotion are the two key focus areas for the near future. The next area of interest of the initiative is GCC, India, Saudi Arabia. The initiative members plan to continue to promote the adoption of the standards, regulations and conformity assessment processes developed in its deliverables.

## III. Sectoral initiative on equipment for explosive environments

5. The sector project equipment for explosive environments was established in 2008 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/18) with an aim to develop common regulations in this sector based on *Recommendation L*. The document on *A Common Regulatory Framework for Equipment Used in Environments with an Explosive Atmosphere* (ECE/TRADE/391) was developed with the support of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in 2011.

6. The project works closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres (IECEX). ECE and IECEX co-organized international conferences/workshops in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in 2012; in Fortaleza, Brazil, in 2013; in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2014; in Gdansk, Poland, in 2015; in Shanghai, China, in 2017; in Split, Croatia, in 2018; and in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2018. Project team members actively encourage the adoption of IECEX standards.

7. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the activities of the project continued. A workshop was organized with IEC on 16 February 2021 to promote common regulatory arrangements (CRAs) to regulatory authorities. Two workshops on proficiency testing of electrical equipment for explosive environment took place on 11 December 2020 and on 28 January 2021 with around eighty test institutes.

#### **IV. Sectoral initiative on the safety of pipelines**

8. The sectoral initiative on the safety of pipelines was established in 2009 with a view to coordinate mandatory requirements for industrial and ecological safety, and to harmonize national approaches to safety regulation of pipelines. The initiative aims to bring together all actors involved in pipelines from those that manage the pipeline systems and the processes of transport to the industry and independent third parties (conformity assessment bodies) as well as regulators.

9. The emergence of new systems for the transportation or distribution of products, in particular hydrogen and liquefied natural gas (LNG), require a more detailed consideration of changes in requirements and their harmonization. In 2021, work was advanced on the safety of main pipelines with the participation of the Russian Gas Society and the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP) Committee on Technical Regulation, Standardization and Conformity Assessment. The activities are aimed at studying and identifying a complete set of safety requirements for cross-border pipelines based on standards. In this regard, the current rules of legislation of the United States of America were analysed.

10. Given the COVID-19 pandemic situation, most exchanges on this initiative were made informally by virtual means during this reporting period.

#### **V. Role of the secretariat**

11. The ECE secretariat is asked by the initiative coordinators to continue supporting the work of the initiatives, resources permitting. This may include servicing the meetings (prepare the invitations, agendas, supporting documents and reports), keeping the website up to date and trying to raise funds.

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