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Inland Transport Committee

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**Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs**

English

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Reports of informal working groups**

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**Report of the Informal Working group on the improvement of the approval system for ATP equipment and thermal appliances****Transmitted by the Government of the Netherlands on behalf of the working group.****Introduction**

The IWG met on 4 occasions between the October 2020 and Oct 2021 session of WP.11. All meetings were virtual and 18 experts were on the attendance list and participated in various combinations in the sessions.

**MTMC equipment and Guidance document**

2. The main part of work concerned the further development of the Guidance document for the Declaration of Conformity of Multi Temperature and Multi-Compartment (MTMC) equipment. The guidance document was modified to take into account remarks made at the 76<sup>th</sup> session of WP.11 concerning the use of the reference calculation tool. In addition questions were received how to deal with the declaration when an equipment would be registered in another contracting state. This question was also dealt with in the update of the Guidance document that is currently available on the UNECE website. See <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Guidance%20document%20MTMC%20-%20Version%205.3.pdf>

3. In addition several questions of a more technical nature were tabled such as why MTMC equipment would always be on an FRC basis, if equipment with one non refrigerated compartment could be MTMC and its marking, questions about the physical properties and testing of partition walls etc. Although the importance was recognized it was felt that this would not fit the mandate of the group that was more on the solving of approval issues.

4. The discussions resulted in two proposals (see also ECE/TRANS/WP.11/2021/18).

**E-signing of ATP certificates**

5. Attention was given to the acceptance of E-signed ATP certificates. E-signed certificates are documents that are electronically generated and provided to users by E-mail or other electronic means. The correctness of the document can be verified by a QR code directly to the website of the contracting party that has issued the document. In this process ATP certificates may not show a stamp or signature but a remark that the document it is

“electronically generated”. The lack of the stamp/signature would prove to be a problem in accepting the document in some contracting parties.

6. It appeared that E-signing was already introduced in several contracting parties to the ATP. However, it was also stated that those authorities included a picture of a stamp of the authority/signature of the responsible person in the organisation for the issuance on the certificate to combat the problems of acceptance.

## Definition of equipment

7. A concern was received that the definition of “equipment”, accepted at the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the WP.11 on the basis of the report of the IWG, was confusing in relation to the text in the first sentence of Annex 1 for “Insulated equipment”.

8. A number of options were considered like removing the definition or different ways of modification. Deletion was not supported as it was felt that definitions would be a help in reading the ATP. As Annex 1 contains a section with “standards” and a section on “definitions” this definition could be maintained besides the description under the standard for “Insulated equipment” but should be aligned.

Definition approved at the 76<sup>th</sup> session of WP.11 (problematic wording underlined)

*“Equipment means an assembly of parts forming an insulated body and its supportive structure needed for carriage on road and rail. Thermal appliances may be part of the assembly.”*

Suggested modification to bring the definition in line with the wording of “insulated equipment” to read:

*“equipment means body built with rigid insulating walls doors, floors and roof , by which heat exchanges between the inside and outside of the body can be limited. In case of tanks, the term “body” means the tank itself. Thermal appliances, if fitted, may be part of the equipment. “*

9. However as the new definition was not yet approved in time to make an official proposal it was not included in document 2021/18.

## Future of the Informal Working Group

10. After the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting no further request for items to discuss were received. As no new issues were raised the future of the Informal Working Group should be discussed by WP.11. One option would be to resolve the group, another is to widen its mandate to address also other topics than the approval system. Experiences with this Informal Working Group show that intersessional informal meetings present a platform for questions, improvement of mutual understanding and development of the ATP.

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