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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Inland Transport Committee

**Working Party on Rail Transport**

**Group of Experts on Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock**

**Sixth session**

Geneva, 29–30 August 2022

Item 2 of the provisional agenda
**Terms of reference for the Revisions Committee**

 Terms of Reference for the Revisions Committee on the Model Rules for the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock

 Note by the secretariat

 I. Background

1. As part of the work on the development of Model Rules for the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock (henceforth the Model Rules), the Group of Experts on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock (PIRRS) has identified in the text of the Model Rules a need to create a Revisions Committee to oversee the maintenance and updating of the Model Rules. This Revisions Committee should be established as a subsidiary body of the Working Party on Rail Transport.

2. The Annex to this document provides a first draft of the Terms of Reference for discussion at the informal Drafting Group meeting in June 2022.

3. Terminology used herein shall have, unless the context dictates otherwise, the meaning set forth in the Model Rules.

Annex I

 Terms of reference

 I. Scope of issues and achievements expected

1. The Revisions Committee to the Model Rules on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock shall be set up as a subsidiary body of the Working Party on Rail Transport. It will focus its work on the following issues:

(a) Assessment and analysis of the implementation of the Model Rules;

(b) Preparation, publication and revision of guidance and support documents to facilitate the implementation of the Model Rules;

(c) Assessment of possible changes to the Model Rules to keep them up to date in accordance with the actual industry practice and any changes to the Regulations.

 II. Methods of Work

1. The Revisions Committee should take into account the Regulations and any procedures agreed thereunder by the Supervisory Authority, revisions thereof and other rules and protocols already in place for marking railway rolling stock when making its assessment. This should include feedback from national or supranational regulators or agencies, the Registrar and representatives of the rail and rail finance industries, as well as industry experts, technology providers and suppliers of identification systems, on the options, practicalities and cost of the various identification marking systems.
2. The Revisions Committee may organise consultations and gather evidence, take advice and undertake research as it considers appropriate for the purposes of its mandate under these Terms of Reference.
3. At its first meeting, the Revisions Committee will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair to remain in place for a period of five (5) years in line with the requirements to review the terms of reference of standing bodies set out in ECE/EX/2/Rev.1.
4. The Revisions Committee is expected to meet at least once, annually at the Palais des Nations in Geneva and online under the rules of procedure of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee included in ECE/TRANS/294 Annex III. Each annual session should be two days in length but may be extended if circumstances require and resources allow.
5. The Revisions Committee is to report on its activities and, if it considers appropriate, make proposals for amendments to the Model Rules, to the annual session of the Working Party on Rail Transport for its consideration and adoption. Special sessions of the Revisions Committee may be requested in the event that urgent matters relating to the Model Rules emerge that need to be dealt with in the inter-session period and the Revisions Committee may request that the Working Party on Rail Transport meets in addition to its annual session if required by the circumstances.
6. Translation of documents and simultaneous interpretation of the Revisions Committee sessions in English, French, and Russian shall be provided by UNECE for all sessions held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.
7. The Revisions Committee may establish a panel to guide parties, courts, administrative entities and other persons seeking to enforce the Model Rules, on the interpretation of the Model Rules.
8. The Revisions Committee may choose to set up informal groups to investigate certain aspects of the Model Rules, to support its analysis and decisions making process. This would be on an ad hoc basis and not included in the UNECE’s regular budget allocation.
9. Participation in the Revisions Committee is open to all concerned States and experts from any State. Concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as concerned railway administration authorities and companies, freight and forwarding industries, intermodal terminals, freight and logistics centres as well as ports authorities are invited to participate and provide expert advice in compliance with United Nations’ rules and practices. This may include (non-exhaustive list):
* The Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF)
* The European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)
* The Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD)
* The International Union of Railways (UIC),
* The Association of American Railroads (AAR)
* The Rail Working Group (RWG)
* The Registrar
* The Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT).

 III. Secretariat

1. ECE will provide secretariat services for the Revisions Committee.