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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

Development of the permanent marking on the Unique Rail Vehicle Identification System

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

Note by the secretariat

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 proposal of the Terms of Reference for discussion at the sixth session of the Group of Experts.

Annex

Terms of reference

I. Scope of tasks and achievements expected

1. The Revisions Committee to the Model Rules on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock (“the Model Rules”) shall be set up as a subsidiary body of the Working Party on Rail Transport. Its mandate, officers and standing nature shall be reviewed every five years. It will focus its work on the following tasks:

(a) Monitor the implementation and propose amendments to the Model Rules including its appendices, from time to time, taking into account experience of the operation of the Model Rules, legal and technological developments, industry comments and best practice and changes to the Regulations.

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

2. Defined terms used herein shall have the meaning set forth in the Model Rules, unless the context dictates otherwise.

II. Methods of Work

3. 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.

4. The Revisions Committee may consult with relevant stakeholders, gather evidence, take advice and undertake research as it considers appropriate for the purposes of its mandate under these Terms of Reference.

5. Decisions of the Revisions Committee shall normally be taken by consensus. In the absence of consensus, decisions of the Revisions Committee shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

6. The Revisions Committee shall have a Chair and a Vice-Chair.

7. The Revisions Committee is expected to meet at least once, annually at the Palais des Nations in Geneva and/or online in accordance with the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within the UNECE (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1). Each annual session should be two days in length but may be extended if circumstances require and resources allow.

8. 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 if 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.

9. Translation of documents and simultaneous interpretation of the Revisions Committee sessions in English, French, and Russian shall be provided by UNECE for all sessions.

10. The Revisions Committee may appoint an expert or establish a panel of experts to provide clarification to the participants, courts, administrative entities and other parties, on the interpretation of the Model Rules.

11. The Revisions Committee may appoint a mediator or establish a mediation panel to mediate any disputes in relation to the operation of the Model Rules.

12. The Revisions Committee may choose to set up informal groups to consider 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.

13. Participation in the Revisions Committee is open to all concerned States and experts from any State. Concerned intergovernmental organizations, multilateral development banks, regional economic integration organizations 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, and actual and prospective financiers of the rail sector are invited to participate in compliance with the United Nations' rules and practices.

14. The procedure for the determination of the membership of the Revisions Committee shall be decided by the Working Party on Rail Transport. The Revisions Committee may wish to make proposals on its membership to the Working Party on Rail Transport.

III. Secretariat

15. UNECE will provide secretariat services for the Revisions Committee.
