

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
31 August 2022

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Rail Transport****Seventy-sixth session**

Geneva, 16–18 November 2022

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

The Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock**Proposed Terms of Reference for the Revisions Committee
on the Model Rules for the Permanent Identification of
Railway Rolling Stock****Note by the Group of Experts****Background**

1. The Group of Experts on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock, within document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2022/4 noted that it believes that it has completed its mandate in relation to the Terms of Reference for the Group. In addition to the report included in the above-mentioned document the Group proposes that a set of Model Rules on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock is adopted and maintained by the Working Party on Rail Transport as a framework for the permanent identification of railway rolling stock with the aim of facilitating the financing of rolling stock. It further proposes the creation of a Revisions Committee on the Model Rules as a subsidiary body to the Working Party on Rail Transport.

2. The annex to this document provides a proposal for the Terms of Reference of this Revisions Committee. The Working Party may wish to consider whether to adopt these Terms of Reference.

Annex

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

I. Scope of Tasks and Achievements Expected

1. The Revisions Committee to the Model Rules on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock (“the Revisions Committee”) shall be set up as a subsidiary body to 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 on the Permanent Identification of Railway Rolling Stock (“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 (including the Guidance Note) 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 up to two Vice-Chairs.

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 ECE (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 intersessional 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 and processing of documents, simultaneous interpretation of the Revisions Committee sessions in English, French and Russian and necessary IT support services shall be provided by ECE 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 decision-making process. This would be on an ad hoc basis and not included in the ECE's regular budget allocation of ECE.

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. ECE will provide secretariat services for the Revisions Committee.
