
Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**

16 August 2022

English

Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) (ADN Safety Committee)**Fortieth session**

Geneva, 22–26 August 2022

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

Any other business

Proposal on a way forward for the informal working group on fumigated cargo**Transmitted by the Government of the Netherlands****Introduction**

1. The correspondence working group on fumigated cargoes has presented its first preliminary results and requests the ADN Safety Committee to advise the group on a direction. The Dutch delegation actively took part in the informal working group, because in the Netherlands the carriage of fumigated cargoes is considered an important topic that needs to be discussed within ADN. Recently there have been several incidents with fumigated cargoes that came by sea- and rail-transport.

2. As indicated in the fifth paragraph of the summary of the correspondence working group, the inland navigation industry believes that fumigation during the journey should not be allowed. Furthermore, Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA) has indicated that the start of a journey should only be allowed until clearance is given. The Dutch delegation concludes that both European Skippers Organization / European Barge Union (EBU/ESO) and GAFTA would like to allow only carriage of Fumigated cargoes after clearance is given (i.e. carriage of cargoes that have been fumigated but are declared safe and below the national thresholds of the countries in which the carriage takes place) and that the carriage of cargoes that are not declared safe, is undesirable from their perspective and should be forbidden.

3. The Dutch delegation agrees with this conclusion and would like to request confirmation on the conclusions in the paragraph above. Furthermore, the Dutch delegation is available to draft proposals accordingly, to prohibit the carriage of cargoes actively fumigating within inland navigation vessels. Alternatively, in case the carriage of fumigated cargoes is deemed desirable, the Dutch delegation is of the opinion that an informal working group should convene to discuss the dangers that such cargoes pose and the adequate measures to be taken to safely transport these bulk cargoes. This informal working group could discuss, among other topics:

(a) The dangers of fumigated cargoes, the range of areas that the gasses from these cargoes could reach;

(b) Whether measures to counter the effects of exposure to fumigants could be effective and;

(c) Whether a measures to ensure that the toxic fumigants are contained within the hold should be introduced within the ADN, understanding that the current fleet of inland navigation vessels is not equipped to fulfil such a requirement.

4. The Dutch delegation kindly requests the Safety Committee to take this information into account in their deliberations on document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2022/42 and the direction and follow-up of the work of the informal (correspondence) working group.
