

Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee**

13 December 2022

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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)

Forty-first session

Geneva, 23-27 January 2023

Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN): training of experts

Report on the twenty-fourth meeting of the informal working group on the training of experts**Submitted by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR)**

1. The informal working group on the training of experts held its twenty-fourth meeting online on 15 November 2022, chaired by Mr. Bölker (Germany). Representatives of the following States took part in the meeting: Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The following non-governmental associations and training institutions were represented: International Committee for the Prevention of Work Accidents in Inland Navigation (CIPA), the European Barge Union (EBU) and HGK Ship Management (training company).

I. Adoption of the agenda and report

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/20 a (Agenda)

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/16 m (Report)

2. The minutes of the twenty-third meeting were adopted without comment.

II. Programme of work

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/6 rev. 3 (Programme of work)

3. Already dealt with in the twenty-third meeting, therefore not discussed.

III. Continuous adaptation of the ADN catalogue of questions

(Item 1 of the programme of work)

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/3 rev. 3 (General)

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/4 rev. 2 (Chemicals)

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/5 rev. 2 (Gas)

4. Already dealt with in the twenty-third meeting, therefore not discussed.

A. ADN 2023

(Item 1.3 of the programme of work)

5. Already dealt with in the twenty-third meeting, therefore not discussed.

B. Adaptation of the directive on the use of the catalogue of questions for the ADN expert examination

(Item 2.1 of the programme of work)

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/10 rev. 1

6. Already dealt with in the twenty-third meeting, therefore not discussed.

IV. ADN expert training and examination

(Item 2.1 of the programme of work)

A. Recognition and conduct of training courses as per 8.2

7. The Chair asks whether the working group confirms the outcome of the discussion at the last meeting of the ADN Safety Committee, that training courses can in principle be interrupted at weekends.

8. The German representative asks whether this applies to all courses, including two-day courses, and if not, which courses may be interrupted over the weekend.

9. The CCNR Secretariat representative proposes that this opportunity be introduced as a matter of principle for all courses, irrespective of their length. The directive on the use of the catalogue of questions for the ADN expert examination could be amended accordingly.

10. A representative of the training providers points out that the times specified in the regulation appended to the ADN are minimum times and that in practice these times may be exceeded in some instances depending on the provider and the course, and on the participants' prior level of training.

11. The German representative is of the opinion that the longer course duration should also be reflected in the duration of the examination as knowledge is more firmly established and a longer exam duration should therefore not be necessary.

12. A representative of the training providers and the Dutch representative reply that the duration of the training and exam duration should not be linked, with the two being considered independently of one another.

13. The CIPA representative proposes investigating the causes behind the considerably longer duration of some training courses.

14. The EBU representative is of the opinion that as a matter of principle it should be possible to tailor the course duration to the participants' knowledge level.

15. The German representative proposes either increasing the minimum duration of the training courses within the ADN or else, as proposed by the CIPA representative, reviewing the training concept. A further area for investigation would be whether courses that exceed the minimum duration are approved in other countries as well, and what the impact is of this extension on the examination outcome.

16. Summing up, the Chair notes that in some instances some training providers considerably exceed the minimum training course duration. Technically, there are no objections to exceeding the training duration as subsections 8.2.2.4 and 8.2.2.5 specify the minimum time frames. Although a further in-depth investigation is advisable, it is a new, complex topic and should therefore be added to the work programme. He asks the CCNR Secretariat to add this topic to the agenda of the next meeting.

17. The Chair notes that the informal working group agrees in principle with the possibility of interrupting the training courses, e.g. over a weekend at most, and that the directive should be provisionally amended to this effect. The Chair will submit a proposed amendment of the directive for the informal working group's twenty-fifth meeting. The conduct of the training courses needs to be reviewed in the context of the possible introduction of online courses.

B. Harmonization of 8.2, "Requirements concerning training" ADR; here online training course

18. The German representative reports on the outcome of the discussion within the ADN safety committee and in the Joint Meeting, that the terminology employed first needs to be defined in more detail before minimum requirements governing these types of training course can be determined. The informal "e-learning" working group of the Joint Meeting was instructed to continue its work. He proposes that the informal working group on the "training of experts" become actively involved in this work.

19. The Dutch representative supports the proposal and points out that the Joint Meeting also addresses inland navigation aspects and that the experts should therefore at least monitor the work.

20. Summing up, the Chair says that participants, including the training providers, should become actively involved in the informal "e-learning" working group's work.

C. Amendment of examination conditions

21. The Chair recalls the history of the activities to extend the duration of the examination. The ADN Safety Committee had no settled position on this at its last meeting. The informal working group could therefore explicitly propose to the ADN Safety Committee that the duration of the examination be extended by 15 minutes from 2025 onward.

22. The German representative points out that the ADN Safety Committee also concluded that the rationale for an extension has not yet been adequately defined and that an updated version should be submitted.
23. The EBU representative emphasises the ongoing requirement to extend the duration of the examination.
24. The Dutch representative points to the report by the Dutch delegation, the discussion on it in 2019, and the findings that the duration of the examination should be extended, and the wording of the questions and answers simplified. In the meantime, the informal working group has been busy working on simplifying the wording of the questions and answers.
25. The German representative recalls the German report on this matter. He is of the opinion that discussion should be restricted to a 15-minute extension and no longer include the required language level. The administrative authorities' workload in redesigning the examinations should also be considered.
26. The Luxembourg representative is of the opinion that extending the duration of the examination might improve examination performance.
27. The CCNR Secretariat representative is of the opinion that the impact of simplifying the questions and answers should be investigated first before extending the duration of the examination. If both changes were to be introduced simultaneously, no inferences as to their effect could be drawn when analysing the examination statistics.
28. The EBU representative agrees in principle with the outcome of the discussion. What is important to him is that extending the duration of the examination remains on the informal working group's agenda.
29. Summing up, the Chair says that, as agreed at the twenty-second meeting of the informal working group, experience with the simplified catalogue of questions should be awaited before introducing a 15-minute extension. Depending on the findings of the analysis of the examination statistics, an extension of the duration of the examination could then be proposed to the ADN Safety Committee and introduced, if applicable, starting in 2027.

D. Evaluation of examination statistics

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/07 rev. 1 Statistics)

30. The Chair thanks the contracting parties for submitting the examination statistics. Concerning the development of the document, he asks whether additional elements such as the test results, or whether the courses took place in situ or in the form of distance learning, should be included in the statistics.
31. The German representative proposes deleting the number of examination dates in the table and investigating which questions are often answered incorrectly. He also proposes that for those countries in which no examinations are held the field be marked accordingly or disabled. He further proposes setting up an electronic platform on which the examination statistics could be published.
32. The Dutch representative confirms that the Dutch electronic system enables analysis according to which questions have been incorrectly answered.
33. The Working Group discusses the examination statistics.
34. The German representative points out that under the same conditions in Germany, the pass rate is 10% higher than in the Netherlands.

35. The Dutch representative responds that both the number of course participants needs to be borne in mind, there being more participants in the Netherlands, and the fact that an ADN examination is part of a boatman's training in the Netherlands. In Germany on the other hand, participants register specially for an ADN training course, the motivation to pass the examination therefore being greater.

36. The EBU representative adds that the teaching of the course content is also different and that this affects the examination results.

37. Summing up, the Chair says that it is important that the statistics be continued. But this should not be taken to excess. There could be further discussion on the future development of the table at the next meeting. He asks the contracting parties who are not conducting any examinations to notify this to the UNECE Secretariat.

E. General issues concerning the catalogue of questions

(Item 3 of the Programme of work)

38. Already dealt with in the twenty-third meeting, therefore not discussed.

F Other matters

39. Already dealt with in the twenty-third meeting, therefore not discussed.

G. Schedule

40. The next meeting of the informal working group will take place from 28 to 30 March 2023 in Strasbourg.
