

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

113th session

10 May 2023

Geneva, 15-17 May 2023

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Proposals for amendments to annexes A and B of ADR:
construction and approval of vehicles**

Certificate of Approval

Transmitted by the Government of the United Kingdom

Summary

Executive summary:	The United Kingdom would welcome an exchange of views on Certificates of Approval that are issued under ADR 9.1.3.
Action to be taken:	An exchange of views on the interpretation of ADR 9.1.3 and whether electronic Certificates of Approval are, or should be permitted.
Related documents:	None

Introduction

1. As part of a general move to issue documents electronically wherever possible (digital by default), the United Kingdom has looked closely at the requirements in ADR 9.1.3. for the Certificate of Approval to consider whether it may be issued in an electronic form.
2. We consider the issue of electronic documents to provide benefits regarding cost, environmental impact, and fraud prevention. Electronic vehicle documents are already issued within the United Kingdom that are comparable to the Certificate of Approval, such as the annual roadworthiness (MOT) certificate. A publicly accessible database allows independent verification of documents that are issued to prevent fraud occurring.
3. It would however seem that ADR only allows paper copies of the Certificate of Approval to be issued. In particular, it must be a specific size (A4) and the note following section 13 of the model certificate requires the certificate to be returned to the issuing service if the vehicle is taken out of service. If an electronic version should be issued, it is difficult to see how the document can be a specific size or how it could be returned.
4. We also note that other areas of ADR have been amended to specifically allow electronic versions of certain documents (such as 5.4). However, there is currently no such provision in 9.1.3.

Discussion

5. ADR 9.1.3 would not seem to allow the issue of electronic certificates but given the potential benefits of allowing them as an alternative to paper versions, we would welcome views on the current text of 9.1.3 and whether changes should be made. In particular:

(a) Do contracting parties consider ADR 9.1.3 to only allow paper versions of the certificate or does the current text allow an electronic version of the certificate?

(b) If an amendment is needed to allow electronic versions of the certificate, would contracting parties be in favour of such a change?

6. If in the opinion of delegates ADR 9.1.3 should be amended to allow electronic certificates, should any amendments require:

(a) Contracting parties allowing the issue of electronic certificates to also have a mechanism that allows the validity of electronic certificate to be independently verified?

(b) The inclusion of provisions that are based upon those currently included in ADR 5.4.0.2 / 5.4.0.3 to be included within 9.1.3?

5.4.0.2 The use of electronic data processing (EDP) or electronic data interchange (EDI) techniques as an aid to or instead of paper documentation is permitted, provided that the procedures used for the capture, storage and processing of electronics data meet the legal requirements as regards the evidential value and availability of data during transport in a manner at least equivalent to that of paper documentation.

5.4.0.3 When the dangerous goods transport information is given to the carrier by EDP or EDI techniques, the consignor shall be able to give the information to the carrier as a paper document, with the information in the sequence required by this Chapter.

Next steps

7. Should WP.15 agree the issue of electronic Certificates of Approval are not currently permitted by ADR 9.1.3 and is of the view that amendments should be made to make it clear they are permitted, the United Kingdom will propose amendments for a future WP.15 session.
