

Terms of reference of the

Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM)



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Terms of reference of the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM)

A. Establishment of the Group of Experts

1. At its forty-fifth meeting, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Executive Committee (EXCOM) decided to establish a Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) on the recommendation by the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) and the Committee on Trade,¹¹ to consider how risk management can contribute to an efficient regulatory framework.

B. Objectives of the Group of Experts

2. The Group of Experts aims at an improved management of hazards that have the potential to affect the quality of products and services, and/or cause harm or damage to people, the environment, property and immaterial assets.

3. To achieve this goal, the Group of Experts will

- collect and share information about hazards resulting from use of products and from production processes;
- develop and share best practices on how to address these hazards through regulatory and managerial best practices.

4. The Group of Experts will develop and share best practices – including, if relevant, in the form of recommendations – as regards the use of risk management tools to

- (a) achieve proportionality between technical regulations and the risks they set out to address, including through regulatory impact assessment and best regulatory practices;
- (b) choose among alternative regulatory instruments;
- (c) assess the respective merits of risk-based regulations and deterministic regulations in different contexts and sectors;
- (d) increase effectiveness of the implementation of regulations and standards as regards pre-market activities (certification, registration, conformity assessment) and post-market ones (inspections and market surveillance);
- (e) improve managerial control of processes and operations as a contribution to a consistent and predictable implementation of standards and regulations;
- (f) analyse legal and supply chain requirements on traceability of goods as a means of meeting legitimate security and consumer safety concerns;
- (g) promote measures to build mutual confidence through better access and wider sharing of relevant information among regulatory agencies, at both national and regional levels (data banks on dangerous goods).

¹ The name of the Steering Committee changed in 2014 to its current name: “Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards”.

C. Composition of the Group of Experts, its membership and participation in its meetings

5. Members of the Group of Experts are representatives from ECE member States and other United Nations Member States.

6. The Group of Experts is open to participation by experts from international organizations as well as to representatives of the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as observers in their personal capacity.

7. The Group of Experts may establish project teams of experts to prepare projects requiring specific expertise, which are expected to become a part of the general activities of the Group of Experts. The Group of Experts can work with interested Governments and organizations on financing and implementation of such projects.

8. United Nations Member States, international organizations, standards development organizations, NGOs and private sector participants are encouraged to consider gender balance when nominating representatives to participate in the Group of Experts.

9. The ECE secretariat will provide necessary support to the Group of Experts and its project teams within available resources.

D. Reporting

10. The Group of Experts works under the guidance of WP.6, in accordance with terms of reference and working practices adopted by WP.6 and reports to it. The Group of Experts works on the understanding that its final reports, proposals or recommendations will be decided by WP.6 as an intergovernmental body.