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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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-fourth session

Geneva, 26–30 August 2024

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Reports of informal working groups

Updating of the 2025–2026 work schedule of the informal working group on the training of experts

Transmitted by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR)*.**

Adopted at the twenty-sixth session, on 19 March 2024:

1. The main tasks of the informal working group are:
 - (a) Development and ongoing adaptation of the ADN catalogue of questions and guidelines for its use;
 - (b) Exchange of lessons learned between the contracting parties and proposals for improvements aimed at guaranteeing the quality of the training of experts within the framework of ADN;
 - (c) Handling specific tasks assigned by the ADN Safety Committee; consultation on issues raised in connection with the interpretation and application of ADN Chapter 8.2; and
 - (d) Consultation on proposed changes, for the ADN Safety Committee, for the ongoing adaptation of expert training requirements.
2. The main tasks of the informal working group for 2025–2026 are:
 - (a) Continuous updating of the ADN catalogue of questions (priority I, see No. 1, below); and
 - (b) ADN expert examination (priority I, see No. 2, below).

* Distributed in German by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine under the symbol CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WP.15/AC.2/2024/37.

** A/78/6 (Sect. 20), table 20.5.



<i>No.</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Mandate/Purpose</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Priority</i>
	<i>Task description</i>				<i>Dealt with in</i>	
1.	Continuously update the ADN catalogue of questions	ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/32, para. 53 Informal document INF.12 of the fourteenth session ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/42, paras. 48–51	01/2025	12/2026		I
1.1	Ascertain whether the system (methods of work) allows for continuous, regular and effective updating of the ADN catalogue of questions					I
1.2	Update the ADN catalogue of questions, as at January 2025, to ADN 2027					
1.2.1	Multiple choice questions				2025 Catalogue of questions, Gases: CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2024/5/Rev.1 2025 Catalogue of questions, Chemistry: CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2024/4/Rev.1 2025 Catalogue of questions, General: CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2024/3/rev.1	I
1.2.2	Substantive questions				ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/60, para. 20 with informal document INF.5 of the twenty-ninth session, para. 14 ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/70, para. 21 (c)	II
1.2.3	In view of technical developments, addition of new questions to the catalogue of questions to better reflect the actual situation on board vessels				ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/20, paras. 18, 19	
1.2.4	Check whether examination requirements are still sufficient at present, or whether they are all still necessary: for experts on board container ships, examination requirements may be adapted or reduced accordingly				ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/20, para. 49	
1.3	The informal working group clarifies specific issues related to the catalogue of questions submitted by the Safety Committee for consideration and develops proposals for decisions to be taken by the ADN Safety Committee					I

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	<i>Task description</i>				<i>Dealt with in</i>	
1.3.1	Review questions on first aid, taking account of developments in the European Committee for Drawing up Standards in the Field of Inland Navigation (CESNI)/in the European Standard for Qualification in Inland Navigation (ES-QIN) Chapters 1 and 7.2, number 2, (Crewman); Chapters 2, 0.7, number 8 (Master)				ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/70, para. 21 (a)	
1.3.2	Editorial corrections such as “Ladeplan/Stauplan”				ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/70, para. 25	
2.	The informal working group clarifies specific issues related to the training and examination of ADN experts that are referred to it by the ADN Safety Committee and the ADN Administrative Committee and prepares draft decisions for the ADN Safety Committee and the Administrative Committee		02/2025	12/2026		I
2.1	Update the directive of the Administrative Committee on the use of the catalogue of questions for the ADN expert examination, in line with progress in the work on the ADN catalogue of questions				ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/4	I
2.1a	Update the directive of the Administrative Committee on the use of the catalogue of questions for the ADN expert examination, in accordance with the instructions of the ADN Safety Committee or the ADN Administrative Committee					I
2.2	Status of training and examinations within the meaning of Chapter 8.2 of the Regulations annexed to ADN					
2.2.1	Examine the possibility and, where appropriate, the modalities by which contracting parties could be invited to regularly send examination statistics				ECE/TRANS/ADN/69, para. 11	I
2.2.2	Draw up an explanatory note to ensure uniform data entry				ECE/TRANS/ADN/69, para. 13	I
2.2.3	Draw up a document containing proposals for the ADN Administrative Committee describing the problems and possible options for improving the statistical base				ECE/TRANS/ADN/69, para. 13	I
2.2.4	Prepare the analysis of examination statistics				ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/20, para. 47 Informal document INF.8 of the forty-first session, paras. 27, 35, 36	

<i>No.</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Mandate/Purpose</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>	<i>Reference</i>	<i>Priority</i>
	<i>Task description</i>				<i>Dealt with in</i>	
2.3	Examine the possibility of distance/online/e-learning teaching for basic training and specialized courses, as well as for refresher courses, taking into account consultations at the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting and its informal working group.				WG document OTIF/RID/RC/2024/23 = ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2024/23 and informal document INF.7/Rev.1 of the 2024 spring session	I
2.4	Consider the proposal by the European Inland Navigation Union and the European Barge Union/European Skippers Organisation to extend the examination time from 60 minutes to xx minutes				ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/20, paras. 22, 23	I
3.	The informal working group addresses specific questions submitted by delegations or individual members and reports on its work to the ADN Safety Committee.		Continuous task			II
3.1	Help and support for the “Chemistry” and “Gas” examinations					II

3. Future meetings: 10–12 September 2024, Strasbourg, starting at 2 p.m.
18–20 March 2025, Strasbourg, starting at 2 p.m.

Working methods of the informal working group on the training of experts

4. The drafting and regular updating of the catalogue of questions and the directives of the Administrative Committee on the use of the catalogue of questions for the examination of ADN experts (Chapter 8.2 ADN) form an important basis for the high-level training of experts. The priority objective of the informal working group on the training of experts is to ensure that the catalogue of questions and the directives always correspond to the current version of the Regulations annexed to ADN and take account of the training objectives.

5. Through an exchange of lessons learned between the contracting parties and proposals for improvements, the informal working group helps guarantee the quality of the training of experts within the ADN framework.

6. The informal working group carries out its tasks as mandated by the ADN Safety Committee.

7. It holds consultations on questions arising in connection with the interpretation and application of Chapter 8.2 of ADN and draws up proposals for modifications to be put to the ADN Safety Committee to ensure the continuous updating of the requirements in connection with the training of experts. Delegations can submit proposals directly to the informal working group; they must then be validated during the next meeting of the ADN Security Committee.

8. Regarding its work schedule, one to two meetings are foreseen each year, as follows:

(a) In March of odd-numbered years, to prepare the update of the catalogue of questions to include the modifications to the Regulations annexed to ADN under preparation and the addition of missing topics, as well as to exchange views on the consequences of the modifications made on the training of ADN experts;

(b) In March of even-numbered years, to update the catalogue of questions and the training of experts to take account of the version of the Regulations annexed to ADN that will enter into force the following year and to submit it to the Safety Committee in August for a decision. Any additional work resulting from the decision can be done in September.

9. The training centres and the organizers of the courses and the examination are involved in the work on the catalogue of questions as well as in considering the questions related to the training of experts and have the possibility of proposing questions to be included in the catalogue of questions and modifications to the Regulations annexed to ADN. They are also invited to critically review the proposed questions and modifications to determine whether they are appropriate and can be implemented. Questions that are difficult to understand or unclear are highlighted to the Safety Committee, which then instructs the informal working group to reconsider them.

10. The Administrative Committee's catalogue of questions forms the mandatory basis for the examinations that the contracting parties organize to test specialist knowledge of ADN. It is made available to the delegations on the ADN Safety Committee for transmission to the competent authorities, training centres and examination organizers. Approximately 50 multiple-choice questions will be looked at each year as part of the ongoing updates. This will result in about 20 pages of text to be translated. The different language versions must be made available as soon as possible. CCNR states that, in addition to the general support it provides to ECE in the context of ADN, it is willing to ensure the translation of 20 pages of text (multiple choice questions) from German into an ECE language.

11. It will probably be necessary to check the continued applicability of the substantive questions over the next two years.