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## Economic Commission for Europe

### 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

### Report of the 26th meeting of the informal working group on the training of experts

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

1. The informal working group on the training of experts held its 26th meeting, chaired by Mr. Bölker (Germany), in Strasbourg from 19 to 21 March 2024. Representatives of the following States took part in the meeting: Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland. The following non-governmental organizations and training bodies were represented: the European Barge Union (EBU), European Skippers Organisation (ESO) and HGK Ship Management (training body).

## I. Adoption of the agenda

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2024/2a

2. The report of the 26th meeting was adopted without amendment.

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\* Distributed in German by the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine under the symbol CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WP.15/AC.2/2024/38.

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



## II. Work schedule

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/6 rev.3 (Work schedule 2023–2024)

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2024/7 (Draft work schedule 2025–2026)

ECE/TRANS//WP.15/AC.2/2023/2

3. The informal working group reviewed progress on the basis of the 2023–2024 work schedule and drew up a first draft work schedule for 2025 and 2026, based on a proposal submitted by Germany.

4. The German representative suggested that the group should discuss the meaning of the priorities in the work schedule.

5. The informal working group discussed how the questions on first aid in the catalogue of questions could be updated. The content of training courses as set out in the European Standard for Qualification in Inland Navigation (ES-QIN) could be used as a basis and, for ADN, should be supplemented by questions relating to dangerous goods. The discussion would be continued at future meetings.

6. The informal working group held an exchange of views on the terms of reference of the Administrative Committee and on the purpose of evaluating examination statistics. The group agreed that ECE did not currently have a common database. Initially, attempts should be made to contact the competent authorities of those Contracting Parties that did not transmit data. The first step would be to identify why the data was not being transmitted to ECE. As a second step, the informal working group would have to agree on objectives for the evaluation of the data to be transmitted. On the basis of those objectives, it would then be possible to determine which data were required, so that the Contracting Parties could transmit them to ECE. The task proposed by Germany was postponed for the time being, pending responses from the Contracting Parties.

7. In addition, the group proposed consulting statisticians on the lessons that could be learned from existing data, and in particular on the aspects to which particular attention should be paid when collecting and analysing statistics related to examinations.

8. The Chair noted that the work schedule, as amended, would be submitted to the ADN Safety Committee for approval at its January 2025 meeting. He concluded by noting that, for the evaluation of statistics, the ECE secretariat had proposed, as a first step, to identify the right interlocutors for those Contracting Parties that did not currently participate in Safety Committee meetings (ECE/ADN/69, para. 12).

## III. Continuous updating of the ADN catalogue of questions 2023

(Item 1 of the work schedule)

ADN catalogue of questions 2023 General

([https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/ADN\\_catalogue\\_of\\_questions\\_2023\\_General\\_en.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/ADN_catalogue_of_questions_2023_General_en.pdf))

ADN catalogue of questions 2023 Chemicals

([https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/ADN\\_catalogue\\_of\\_questions\\_2023\\_Chemicals\\_en.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/ADN_catalogue_of_questions_2023_Chemicals_en.pdf))

ADN catalogue of questions 2023 Gas

([https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/ADN\\_catalogue\\_of\\_questions\\_2023\\_Gas\\_en.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/ADN_catalogue_of_questions_2023_Gas_en.pdf))

Informal document INF.2 of the forty-first session – ADN catalogue of questions 2023 General – Summary

Informal document INF.3 of the forty-first session – ADN catalogue of questions 2023 Chemicals – Summary

Informal document INF.4 of the forty-first session – ADN catalogue of questions 2023  
Chemicals – Summary

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2011/4-17 – CCNR secretariat (Confidential documents, ADN  
2011, substantive questions)

Substantive questions – Gas (available for download on the BSCW server)

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/88

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/20

9. The informal working group revised the catalogues of questions.

10. The Chair said that he had prepared revised versions of the catalogues of questions and invited the CCNR secretariat to distribute them to the participants. He invited the experts to review their questions in accordance with document CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2024/6 and forward them to the Chair by 12 July 2024.

#### **A. ADN 2025**

(Item 1.3 of the work schedule)

11. A representative of the CCNR secretariat reported that the CCNR secretariat had prepared a provisional version of the draft amendments to ADN 2025 in German. The CCNR secretariat would have to check that version on the basis of the French version of the requests for amendments, a first version of which would be made available by the ECE secretariat in April 2024.

#### **B. Updating of the directive on the use of the catalogue of questions for the ADN expert examination**

(Item 2.1 of the work schedule)

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/4

Informal document INF.8 of the 41st session, para. 17

12. The informal working group made editorial updates to the directive.

13. The Chair noted that there was currently no need to revise the content of the directive.

### **IV. ADN expert training and examination**

(Item 2.1 of the work schedule)

#### **A. Recognition and implementation of the training courses referred to in 8.2**

Informal document INF.24 of the 43rd session

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/88, paras. 20 and 21

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/20, para. 17

14. The informal working group examined the industry's proposal to organize training courses and examinations in English. The industry was calling for more training courses and examinations to be offered in English, to facilitate access to inland navigation for international workers and improve communication on board vessels.

15. A representative of Belgium pointed out that examinations could not be organized in English in Belgium, but that it was possible to use an interpreter during the examination.

16. A representative of Luxembourg said that, in Luxembourg, training courses and examinations were organized only on special request.
17. A representative of Switzerland noted that Switzerland had four official languages, but that training courses and examinations were given only in German.
18. A representative of Germany recalled the discussion in the Safety Committee of the fact that, if the examination was taken in English, the examiners would also need to have the relevant language skills. In addition, in some Contracting Parties, including Germany, legal provisions stipulated that sovereign acts must be performed in an official language of the country concerned.
19. A representative of the Netherlands pointed out that it would in principle be possible to hold examinations in English, but they were not currently offered. He said that German was still the language mainly used in Rhine navigation, although there was increasing use of English. Any decision would also have to take account of the fact that crew members needed to be able to communicate not only with each other, but also with services outside the vessel.
20. A training organization representative pointed out that local transport regulations required regional language skills. He nevertheless thought that, in view of trends in the labour market, English would become increasingly important in inland navigation. It would therefore be appropriate to offer examinations in English.
21. The Chair concluded by noting that, as a first step, general trends in the navigation sector should be monitored. If there was a general increase in the importance of English, the discussion could be continued in the Security Committee. It would always be up to the Contracting Parties to decide whether or not to offer examinations in English.

## **B. Harmonization of 8.2, Requirements concerning training, with the ADR e-learning model**

OTIF/RID/RC/2024/23 = ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/2024/23

[https://otif.org/fileadmin/new/2-Activities/2D-Dangerous-Goods/2Da2workingdoc\\_Jointmeeting/2024/RC\\_2024-23\\_d\\_report\\_WG\\_e-learning.pdf](https://otif.org/fileadmin/new/2-Activities/2D-Dangerous-Goods/2Da2workingdoc_Jointmeeting/2024/RC_2024-23_d_report_WG_e-learning.pdf)

Informal document INF.7/Rev.1 of the spring session 2024 of the Joint Meeting

<https://unece.org/transport/documents/2024/01/informal-documents/report-fifth-meeting-informal-working-group-e>

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/20, paras. 28–40

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/2024/1

<https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/ECE-TRANS-WP15-2024-01E.pdf>

22. The representative of Germany recalled the discussion held during the ADR/RID/ADN Joint Meeting and presented the state of progress of the work of the ADN informal working group on e-learning.
23. The informal working group discussed issues specific to ADN relating to e-learning, such as identity verification for training courses, tests and examinations.
24. An industry representative pointed out that, in contrast to ADR, there were more practical aspects involved in ADN training, such as the use of measuring equipment or the opening of openings. It would thus not really be appropriate to teach those practical aspects of ADN in the context of e-learning, whether synchronous or asynchronous.
25. A representative from Germany expressed doubts as to whether the authorities would recognize online courses, given that asynchronous online teaching would involve other aspects being taken into account (e.g. instead of “information on classrooms” in 8.2.2.6.3 (c)). That raised the question of whether ADN requirements should be adapted accordingly in respect of training content and training organizations.

26. A representative of the Netherlands observed that the competent authority certified the various e-learning modules. The competent authority had guidelines for that purpose. He recommended that the ADN requirements for recognition of training courses should not be drafted in too much detail, as that should be left to the various national competent authorities.

27. An industry representative recommended leaving the module design under the responsibility of the training organizations, and continuing to certify training organizations.

28. The Chair summed up, for transmission to the informal e-learning working group, that:

- (a) The informal working group was, in principle, in favour of e-learning;
- (b) Training organizations should initially limit the courses they offered to asynchronous refresher courses;
- (c) For refresher courses, the theoretical content of training could be taught up to 100 per cent online;
- (d) The practical content should not be taught online;
- (e) Basic courses required a greater proportion of in-person teaching and practical training, and should therefore be organized synchronously;
- (f) In the future, it must be ensured that trainers were qualified to teach the content of training courses, and that
- (g) The persons responsible in the competent authorities might be subject to different requirements for the recognition of e-learning modules compared to the recognition of traditional courses.

29. The implementation of synchronous learning (participation by videoconference) was considered to be an alternative to in-person teaching and was not reviewed. However, even in the case of synchronous learning, the practical parts of the training must be followed in person.

### C. Analysis of examination statistics

CCNR-ZKR/ADN/WG/CQ/2022/7 rev.1 (Excel table with examination statistics)

ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/2023/20 paras. 47–52

ECE/TRANS/ADN/69, para. 11

30. The informal working group discussed the comparability of examination results, assessed the available data and agreed on updating the table for recording examination results.

31. A representative from the Netherlands presented statistics for resit tests in the Netherlands.

32. The representatives of Germany and Switzerland said they had no comparable statistics.

33. A representative of Belgium said that data were available, but that there were not yet any rules for their assessment.

34. A representative of the Netherlands suggested that the aim of the assessment could be to make comparisons between the Contracting Parties and draw conclusions about the quality of training courses. However, the data available did not currently make it possible to draw many conclusions about the quality of training in the different countries. It was only possible to make some very general and approximate comparisons. That raised the question of whether those comparisons could be used in any way. In addition, the informal working group should not carry out checks on individual training organizations, as that was the responsibility of the competent authorities. He suggested checking which questions were often answered incorrectly and to what extent, if any, the question catalogue should be revised. The Dutch and Belgian data could serve as a basis for that.

35. A representative of Germany observed that a comparison of examination results required the level of the examination and, where applicable, the training course, to be identical in all Contracting Parties. He recalled that some Contracting Parties had not yet submitted their statistics. He proposed including the obligation to do so in 8.2.2.7.0 of ADN:

“The Contracting Parties shall report to the Administrative Committee by 30 June each year on the number of examinations organized under their responsibility, the number of candidates and the pass/fail rates. The Administrative Committee may provide a model report with additional instructions and invite the Safety Committee to evaluate the reports. [If a Contracting Party is more than two years late in providing reports, the Administrative Committee may invite it to submit written comments].”

36. The Chair concluded by noting that a step-by-step approach should be adopted. The first step would be to draft the objectives and collect additional information from those Contracting Parties that had not yet submitted their data on test and examination pass rates. Consideration could then be given to the additional data to be transmitted, and how it might be analyzed. The ECE secretariat could be asked to contact those Contracting Parties that had not yet submitted data.

37. The Chair added that the proposal by Germany would be included in the report on the meeting of the informal working group to be presented at the next meeting of the ADN Safety Committee; he invited the experts to submit proposals for objectives before the March 2025 meeting.

## **V. Clarification of general issues related to the catalogue of questions**

(Item 3 of the work schedule)

38. The informal working group addressed the questions set aside by the Netherlands and added them to the catalogues of questions to be revised.

## **VI. Any other business**

39. The informal working group checked whether all members had access to the BSCW server.

40. A representative of the CCNR secretariat said that a new service providing access to CCNR documents was to be introduced soon. Each participant would receive an invitation by e-mail.

41. The informal working group discussed the question raised by training organizations concerning emergency escape breathing devices (EEBD) as to whether an addition could be made to ADN to clarify eligibility and requirements. EBU and ESO would submit a proposal to that end at a forthcoming meeting of the ADN Safety Committee.

42. The Chair concluded by saying that the informal working group welcomed the initiative.

## **VII. Calendar**

43. The next meetings of the informal working group would probably take place from 10 to 12 September 2024 and from 18 to 20 March 2025, in Strasbourg.

44. The Chair thanked the participants for their valuable and constructive contributions to the discussions; he also thanked the CCNR secretariat for organizing the meeting of the informal working group on the training of experts and for its active contribution to the smooth running of the meeting.