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Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals for amendments to ATP:

New proposals

Definition of independence of equipment

Transmitted by the Government of France

Summary

Executive summary:	The purpose of this proposal is to define the independence of special transport equipment, taking into account new technologies for powering thermal devices.
Action to be taken:	Add a definition to annex 1, paragraph 7, of ATP
Related documents:	None

Introduction

1. Article 4 of the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP) provides: “The equipment [special transport equipment referred to in article 1] shall be so selected and used that the temperature conditions prescribed in the said annexes [annexes 2 and 3] can be complied with throughout carriage.” The technology used in special transport equipment should therefore enable perishable foodstuffs to be transported under the temperature conditions prescribed in ATP, and the carrier must be aware of the limits for use.

2. Certification of compliance with ATP is intended to give the carrier assurances that the special transport equipment is correctly dimensioned to maintain the defined temperature conditions throughout carriage and to provide the carrier with independent information on the equipment’s limits for use.



3. Decarbonization targets have led manufacturers to introduce new technologies for powering thermal devices, which have an impact on equipment certification conditions. At the forefront of commercially available systems is equipment powered by electric storage batteries, dedicated or otherwise. Recharging of these batteries is sometimes possible when the vehicle's combustion engine is running and the refrigerated and/or heated equipment is producing cold and/or heat. The flexibility provided by electric storage batteries is undeniable, but the type of equipment powered by mixed energy sources raises issues of ATP classification and clear information for users on the equipment's limits for use.

4. Non-independent equipment is defined in annex 1, appendix 2, paragraph 6.2.2 (i), as follows: "Non-independent equipment, the refrigeration unit of which is powered by the engine of the vehicle". The equipment bears a specific marking, "X", to facilitate identification, particularly at border crossings, and to inform the carrier that the thermal device cannot operate independently of the operation of the vehicle. Any other type of equipment, including equipment that uses an electric power supply technology, is in fact considered to be "independent" during the transport phase and, in this case, the carrier must be assured of the running time of the thermal device so that the carrier can choose transport equipment that meets its needs.

5. No running time independent of the operation of the vehicle is mentioned on the ATP certificate and the marking on ATP equipment. Rather than increasing the number of markings, it would seem simpler to establish a minimum running time criterion for the issue of an ATP certificate. No running time criteria are defined in ATP for characterization as "independent". We therefore submit a series of two proposals aimed at:

(a) Specifying the definition of independent equipment and the criterion for minimum running time independent of the operation of the equipment;

(b) Specifying the characterization of an electrically-powered thermal device (for on-road mode) as "independent".

I. Proposal

6. Introduce a definition of independent equipment in annex 1, paragraph 7 (definitions):

"Equipment is 'independent' if:

- The refrigeration or refrigeration and heating process relies on a power source that:
 - Is dedicated or shared, with priority given to the thermal device
 - Is always available
 - Cannot be interrupted during the entire transport phase
- Its independence duration is greater than 1 hour from full charge on the highest energy-consuming mode at an outdoor temperature of 30°C"

Translation:

Autonome: independent

Durée d'autonomie: independence duration

II. Impact

Justification:	Harmonize the language and identification of independent equipment. Inform the carrier of the dimensioning and limits for use of the equipment.
Costs:	No costs associated with amending the text of ATP and implementing certification. The proposal is to retain the existing type of marking for ATP equipment. Implementing power source qualification tests at official test stations can generate costs.
Environment:	This proposal aims to harmonize the interpretation of ATP and prevent distortions of competition.
Feasibility	Official ATP test stations will in some cases (in the absence of an existing power source certificate) be required to implement a test method to qualify the power source.
Enforceability	No problems are expected. No transitional period is needed.
