
Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

Eighty-first session

Geneva, 29 October – 1 November 2024

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

Activities of other international organizations dealing with issues of interest to the Working Party:

Transfrigoroute International

17 October 2024

English

Report of year 2024 from Transfrigoroute International

Transmitted by Transfrigoroute International

Summary

Executive summary: Report of year 2024 from Transfrigoroute International

Action to be taken: Information & support for discussion

Related documents: NA

I. Context and challenges

1. Transportation and logistics, including most suppliers from this business sector (Transport company, rental company, OEM, bodybuilder, equipment manufacturer...) are facing orders at a low level, reflecting sluggish investment in a context of declining freight transport activity.
2. Consumption of fresh and frozen products remains constrained in 2024 by a further decline in consumption due to inflation on fresh and frozen products.
3. We could also mention lack of labor force and difficulties to hire to fulfill all needs of our business sector (driver, logistic operator, technician for vehicle & TRU).
4. Despite previously mentioned challenges, political agenda, and strong ambition from the European Union (EU) regarding climate change are still ongoing.
5. Refrigerated transport sector is at the crossroad of two revolutions: decarbonizing all transport segments to contribute to the global, European, and national emissions reduction targets, but also transforming the refrigerant used by for our operations to render them more sustainable.
6. It is worth mentioning new target adopted by EU strengthening CO₂ emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles and for the first time, including target for trailers. Associated financial penalties are very important and create a real risk for bodybuilders and ultimately for transport industry.

II. Activities

7. The Executive Committee of Transfrigoroute International met on four occasions (6 March, 8 April, 11 June and 12 September 2024) and an Annual General Assembly took place on 10-11 October 2024 in presence.

8. The technical Committee of Transfrigoroute International(CCT) met on seven occasions (23 January, 11 April, 24 May, 21 June, 12 and 25 September and 9 October 2024).

9. CCT also participated to most of WP11 Informal Working Group including the one in Brussels (8-9 July 2024).

10. CCT also participated to CERTE meeting hosted by CEMAFROID, France, on 16–17 April 2024.

III. Key areas of focus

A. ATP follow up & improvement.

11. Development of alternative power train vehicle and alternative power source for thermal appliances is accelerating but it is still unclear regarding ATP on how to approve all possible configuration, for electrical power source (Battery Electric Vehicle, Battery pack...). Numerous discussions already happened on this topic, but no consensus has been found yet. Transfrigoroute International strongly recommend to comes quickly to an acceptable proposal to not jeopardize decarbonation benefit related to electrification of road transport.

General comment about ATP rules:

12. Divergent interpretations and application of ATP rules among Contracting Parties may create distortion of competition, potentially disadvantaging manufacturers, and transport companies. WP11 should prioritize harmonizing the application of these regulations across all countries to ensure fair competition and operational consistency.

B. FGas revision

13. The new F-gas Regulation (EU) 2024/573 was adopted on 7 February 2024 and started to apply on 11 March 2024. This revision introduces stricter HFC phase-down targets compared to the previous version, covering more gases and product categories. It tightens leakage prevention measures and bans high-GWP F-gases in more applications.

14. There are no specific bans for the use of fluorinated greenhouse gases in transport refrigeration applications, but a review is planned before July 2027, to reassess potential alternatives for mobile refrigeration sector. Transfrigoroute International will stay active on this topic.

C. Others

15. In addition of the two main area of focus, Transfrigoroute International is also active on monitoring all regulations and standards that could have an impact on refrigerated transport sector. This includes but not limited to:

- Emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles (EU2024/1610, VECTO...)
- Review of EURO 7
- EU consultation on “Count Emissions EU”

- Revision of the Weights and Dimensions Directive
 - Greening corporate fleet
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