



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.30/2002/14
15 April 2002

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Customs Questions

affecting Transport

(One-hundred-and-first session, 19-21 June 2002,
agenda item 6 (c) (v))

**CUSTOMS CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT
OF GOODS UNDER COVER OF TIR CARNETS (TIR CONVENTION 1975)**

Application of the Convention

Amendment proposals for technical provisions of the Convention (TIR plate)

Note by the secretariat

A. BACKGROUND

1. At its one-hundredth session (12-15 February 2002), the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport discussed an amendment proposal to Annex 5, para. 2, submitted by the Liaison Committee of the Body and Trailer Building Industry (CLCCR) (document TRANS/WP.30/2002/3), with regard to the blue background colour of the TIR plate.
2. Following a first round of discussion, the Working Party agreed that it would be useful, in order to strengthen the profile of the TIR system, to modify the comment to Annex 5 of the Convention concerning the layout of the TIR plate. The Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare a modified comment concerning colour and the font of the letters of the TIR plate (TRANS/WP.30/200, para. 80).

3. The current provisions in Annex 5 to the TIR Convention concerning the TIR plate only contain a general description of the font of the letters “TIR”, stipulating that capital Latin characters have to be used and that they shall be 200 mm high and at least 20 mm wide. The design of the TIR plate, provided only in a comment to the general provisions in Annex 5 to the TIR Convention, was actually carried out by hand and did not correspond to any standard description or font for the characters used.

B. PROPOSAL

4. In order to give the TIR plate a uniform design, the secretariat proposes that the existing comment should be amended to include a description of the background colour and the font to be used to print the letters “TIR”. In addition, realizing that the use of a standard font may change the outlook of the TIR plate, the secretariat proposes to seize this occasion to bring the design of the TIR plate in line with modern lay-out techniques.

5. The updated TIR plate should improve the visibility of the letters “TIR”, while at the same time promoting the fact that the TIR Customs transit system represents a joint effort by Governments and the transport industry to facilitate border-crossing procedures. To this end, the annexes to this document contain three alternative proposals to be discussed by the Working Party. All three proposals respect the existing legal dimensions of the TIR plate, as contained in Annex 5 to the TIR Convention and would only require modifications to the existing comment. Once the Working Party has decided on one of the proposed layouts, the secretariat will work out a detailed description of the chosen TIR plate, to be included into the existing comment.

6. With regard to annex 3, the Working Party may wish to consider the usefulness of additional information to be printed on the TIR plate. The addition of the words "Transport International Routier" on the plate may increase the general public's understanding of the TIR system in the same manner as the logos of all responsible parties on the TIR plate.

7. It is understood, and this will have to be made clear in the modified comment to the provisions in Annex 5 to the TIR Convention, that the new lay-out of the proposed TIR plate is optional only, in the sense that it is not a legal Customs requirement of the TIR Convention, but it is recommended for visibility purposes and can be used as a marketing tool for international road transport operators. Furthermore, it will need to be pointed out in the modified comment that there exists no requirement to replace existing TIR plates on road vehicles or containers. Replacement of the old TIR plate and fixing of the newly recommended plate is left to the discretion of the transport operators. The international organization and/or its national associations may also wish to contribute to the wide distribute of the newly recommended TIR plates among their members.

8. With regard to the background colour, two colours are proposed: either “traffic blue” (RAL 5017) or “signal blue” (RAL 5005).
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Annex 1



Logo of the
International
Organization

CEE-ONU  EЭК ООН
UNECE

Logo of the
National
Association

Annex 2



Annex 3

