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Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Proposal of amendments to the ATP: New proposals

ATP approval of curtain-sided bodies

Transmitted by the Government of the Netherlands

Summary

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| Executive summary: | Annex 1 and its appendices do not contain specific provisions that allow or prohibit ATP approval of curtain-sided bodies. Leakage of cold along the sides of the curtains and wear of the curtains can lead to hot spots and consequential risks for food safety. Should curtain-sided bodies be allowed to be ATP approved? |
| Action to be taken: | Discussion. |
| Related documents: | None. |

Discussion

1. There are no provisions in ATP and its annexes preventing the approval of bodies with side curtains. However, the effectiveness of the insulation of this kind of body can be questioned.
2. Around moving bodies, areas of high and low pressure may be formed which deform the flexible walls of curtain-sided trailers with possible leakage of cold. Local leakage of cold can create hot spots which can be a risk for food safety.
3. The durability of side curtains can also be questioned. In many cases, after six years the underside of the curtains is damaged and needs repair or complete replacement.

4. Additional provisions are considered necessary to regulate the level of tightness of side curtains or to prohibit their approval.
 5. The following options have been identified:
 - A design requirement for bodies to withstand internal pressure;
 - A statement that walls should be rigid;
 - A maximum service life for side curtains.
 6. Regarding the first option, a design requirement for bodies to withstand internal pressure could be beneficial for all equipment. The construction of doors and closing mechanisms in general might improve. Curtain-sided trailers with special equipment to keep the side curtains really tight (additional tautening mechanism) could still be approved. Simpler constructions could not comply and should not be approved.
 7. Regarding the second option, introducing additional words like “rigid” in relation to “walls” would stop the approval of curtain-sided bodies. However, using a generic term like “rigid” may lead to interpretations of how flexible a rigid construction may be, to be still regarded as rigid.
 8. On the third option, limiting the service life of side curtains may overcome the problem of proving the effectiveness of curtains after repair. Alternatively or additionally, provisions for re-evaluating the insulation of side curtains would be possible.
 9. The WP.11 is asked for its opinion.
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