

OTIF



ORGANISATION INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE POUR
LES TRANSPORTS INTERNATIONAUX FERROVIAIRES

ZWISCHENSTAATLICHE ORGANISATION FÜR DEN
INTERNATIONALEN EISENBahnVERKEHR

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR INTER-
NATIONAL CARRIAGE BY RAIL

INF. 13

30 July 2014

Original: German

RID/ADR/ADN

Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Geneva, 15 - 19 September 2014)

Agenda item 5 (a) : Proposals for amendments to RID/ADR/ADN – Pending issues

**Possibility of electronic processes in the examination of safety advisers, vehicle drivers
(ADR) and experts (ADN)**

Transmitted by the Government of Germany

SUMMARY

Executive Summary:

The current provisions in 1.8.3 and 8.2 of RID/ADR/ADN stipulate that the examinations shall be "in writing". It is not clear whether electronic means may be also used for giving the answers. The Joint Meeting had confirmed this in September 2012 but considered it necessary to amend the provisions to avoid abuse. Germany submits a proposal on the conditions that should be imposed so that written examination can also, in whole or in part, be taken as electronic examinations.

Action to be taken:

Discussion, guidance for developing a formal proposal for the spring session 2015

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Related documents:	INF.9 and ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/128, paragraphs 29 and 30, of the Joint Meeting in September 2012 ECE/TRANS/WP.15/2014/3 and ECE/TRANS/WP.15/224, paragraphs 10 to 13, of the 96 th session of WP.15
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Introduction

1. At its session in September 2012, the Joint Meeting dealt with informal document INF.9 submitted by Germany which addressed the interpretation of the term "written" in the provisions concerning examination organised by authorities to demonstrate certain knowledge. After a detailed discussion, the Joint Meeting agreed to the following (see also Document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/128, paragraphs 29 and 30):

"Most delegations commenting on this issue considered that the term "written examination" did not preclude the use of electronic processes in the examinations for ADR vehicle drivers or safety advisers, on the understanding that measures must be taken to prevent cheating (see, for example, 1.8.3.12.3).

The representative of Germany said that he would prepare a proposal to avoid problems of interpretation in the current texts."

2. At its 96th session in May 2014, WP.15 discussed a proposal from the Russian Federation on the implementation of ADR 8.2.2.7.1.6. The issue involved, in particular, the possibility of taking the examination at a location other than that of the examination board (ECE/TRANS/WP.15/2014/3). WP.15 was of the opinion that the forms of examination described in the Russian proposal, i.e. using electronic means and transmitting the results from dispersed examination locations to an examination board located in a different (central) place, were also equivalent to the required written examination, provided that adequate identification and supervision of the candidates was ensured.
3. Germany has discussed the aspects brought forward at the Joint Meeting and in WP.15 with its national examination centres. As a result of these deliberations, an attempt has been made to find clear wording to implement the required conditions. The presentation by the delegation of the Russian Federation in WP.15 has contributed considerably to a better understanding of the desired examination situation.
4. The objective of the proposal below is to ensure, on the one hand, that when answering and evaluating the assigned tasks, new possibilities for cheating that result from the use of electronic means (workstation computers, central servers, etc.) can largely be countered. On the other hand, it must be ensured that the same functionalities and a backup of answers are provided for all candidates to avoid unintentionally putting individual candidates at a disadvantage as a result of more difficult operation or loss of input.

Proposed amendments (new text underlined)

5. 1.8.3.10 of RID/ADR/ADN could be amended to read as follows:

"1.8.3.10 The examination shall be organized by the competent authority or by an examining body designated by the competent authority. The examining body shall not be a training provider.

The examining body shall be designated in writing. This approval may be of limited duration and shall be based on the following criteria:

- competence of the examining body;
- specifications of the form of the examination the examining body is proposing, including the infrastructure and organisation of electronic examinations in accordance with 1.8.3.12.5;
- measures intended to ensure that examinations are impartial;
- independence of the body from all natural or legal persons employing safety advisers."

6. The following new 1.8.3.12.5 of RID/ADR/ADN could be inserted:

"1.8.3.12.5 Written examinations may be performed, in whole or in part, as electronic examinations, where the answers are recorded and evaluated, in whole or in part, by means of electronic input devices, if the following conditions are met:

- (a) The input devices and applications used shall be provided by the competent authority or examining body and shall be subjected to a quality check. The possibility of any manipulation and deception shall be ruled out. Proper technical functioning shall be ensured. Arrangements shall be made for a failure of the input devices and applications.
- (b) All candidates taking the examination shall use the same input devices and applications. It shall be ensured that the candidates are instructed in the use of the input devices prior to the examination.
- (c) Authentication of the candidate on the input device used shall be ensured.
- (d) The tasks and answers shall be unambiguously and permanently assigned to the respective candidate. Inputs and actions on the input device shall be logged. The determination of the results shall be transparent. All examination documents shall be documented and kept as a print-out or electronically as a file.
- (e) No aids shall be available on the input devices. The devices shall not be able to communicate with each other."

7. The provisions in 8.2.2.7.1.6 of ADR on the final examination of the driver training and in 8.2.2.7.1.5 and 8.2.2.7.2.5 of ADN on the final examination of the expert training could be supplemented with the same text or a reference to a new 1.8.3.12.5 of RID/ADR/ADN.