



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 February 2022
English
Original: Russian

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

Seventy-seventh session

Geneva, 3–6 May 2022

Item 5(b) of the provisional agenda

Proposals of amendments to ATP: New proposals

Amendment to the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage (ATP) with provisions on testing stations and experts

Transmitted by the Government of the Russian Federation

Summary

Executive summary: The Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage, signed at Geneva on 1 September 1970 (hereinafter referred to as ATP), specifies that testing stations and experts are designated by the competent authority of the country for ATP, but it establishes no requirements to be met by organizations for them to be authorized as testing stations or experts or provisions for the supervision (or monitoring) of the activities of ATP testing stations and experts.

Action to be taken: Amend ATP with appropriate provisions.

Related documents: None.

Introduction

1. Paragraph 1 of annex 1, appendix 1, of ATP mentions that testing stations are designated or authorized by the country's competent authority for ATP.
2. Paragraphs 5 and 6 of annex 1, appendix 2 indicate that the competent authority may appoint experts to assess the fitness for retention in one or other of the categories of insulated equipment.
3. No requirements are established for ATP testing stations and experts.
4. The procedure for monitoring and supervising testing stations and experts is not defined in ATP.



5. There are no penalties (and no liability) for violation of (or non-compliance with) the methods and procedures for measuring and checking the insulating capacity and efficiency of the cooling and heating appliances of special equipment for the carriage of perishable foodstuffs (referred to as the methodology).
6. The lack of any monitoring of the activities of testing stations and experts can have a negative impact on the quality and effectiveness of their work, which may lead to a deterioration in the conditions for preserving the quality of perishable foodstuffs during their carriage.
7. It is vital to define and establish in ATP a list of criteria that must be met by organizations in order for them to be designated or authorized as testing stations or experts.
8. In order to harmonize the requirements for the testing stations and experts of the contracting parties, the Russian Federation has prepared a proposal to amend ATP by including an additional annex.

I. Proposal submitted for a vote

9. Add a new Appendix 4 to ATP, to read as follows:

“Provisions concerning the authorization or designation of testing stations and expert organizations (hereinafter referred to as experts), the monitoring of their activities and liability for failure to comply with such provisions:

- i. The testing station or expert shall, if it meets the requirements in this section, be authorized or designated by the competent ATP authority of the country for a period not exceeding three years.
- ii. Organizations having no self-interest in the test results or expert conclusions may be designated as testing stations or experts. Relationships that threaten the impartiality of a testing station or expert may be based on ownership, management, leadership, personnel, shared resources, finances, contracts, marketing (including branding) and commissions or other incentives for new test sponsors.
- iii. The testing station shall have an insulated chamber and calorimeter box on the premises and measuring equipment and tools that meet the requirements of ATP and are capable of working with all types of vehicles used for the carriage of perishable foodstuffs.
- iv. The testing station or expert shall have at least two employees whose responsibilities include monitoring compliance of vehicles with the requirements of ATP. The employees shall have an education and experience working in refrigeration and cryogenics.
- v. The testing station or expert shall have a quality management manual developed in accordance with ISO 9001–2015.
- vi. The expert shall have premises for checking vehicles, with artificial lighting of at least 2000 lux (in a brightly lit area), measuring devices and equipment to be used for checking vehicles in accordance with the provisions of ATP, and equipment to maintain a constant room temperature of + 15 °C to + 30 °C when vehicles are checked, in accordance with the provisions of ATP.
- vii. The procedure for the designation and authorization of a testing station or expert, and the actions to monitor the activities of the testing station or expert, shall be determined by the country’s ATP competent authority.
- viii. In case of non-compliance with the provisions of ATP, the activity of the testing station or expert shall be suspended until the remarked faults are corrected.
- ix. If non-compliance with the provisions of ATP is detected again within one year of a previous violation, the activity of the testing station or expert shall be terminated and the applicant testing station or expert shall have the right to reapply for authorization or designation arise no sooner than one year after the termination.

- x. The requirements specified in this provision shall be binding on all Contracting Parties, and each Contracting Party may issue local regulations specifying and expanding upon these requirements.”

II. Cost

- 10. There may be additional costs for the competent authority.

III. Enforceability

- 11. No problems are foreseen with the implementation of the proposals.
-