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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Transport

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Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Facilitation of international road transport

Amended Annex 1 of RE.4 (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2002/4/Rev.4)

Note by the secretariat

1. At the last session, SC.1 approved changes to Annex 1 of RE.4 per ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2022/1 with a change in paragraph 3 as follows: deletion of the text “in a Portable Document Format (PDF)”.
2. This informal document contains the clean version of the amended Annex 1 of RE.4 for endorsement by SC.1. Following endorsement at this session, the secretariat will arrange for the current version of RE.4 (ECE/TRANS/SC.1/2002/4/Rev.4) to be updated and submitted as a formal document at the next session of SC.1, so that RE.4 may be translated into the ECE official languages, and for the amended version of RE.4 to be uploaded onto SC.1’s website in due course.

The International Motor Insurance System - (known as the “Green Card System”)

1. In each country, the Government officially recognizes a single organization established by authorized insurers as its national insurers’ bureau (hereinafter “Bureau”). Only insurers authorized for the transaction of third-party motor liability insurance can be members of the Bureau of that country and thereby be authorized to issue certificates, mentioned in paragraph 3 below. All such insurers shall join the Bureau and all shall share in its financing, so that the Bureau is in a position to meet its financial obligations.
2. The Bureaux, set up in accordance with paragraph 1 above, shall join and support the international body, known as the “Council of Bureaux”. The Council of Bureaux is the managing organization of the International Motor Insurance System, (known as the “Green Card System”), under the aegis of the Working Party on Road Transport of the Economic Commission for Europe. The Council of Bureaux provides facilities for the administration of the agreements between Bureaux and for the consideration of matters of mutual interest for participating Bureaux.
3. The Bureau shall provide its member insurers with certificates of insurance, the “International Motor Insurance Certificate” (also known as the “Green Card”), valid for one or more countries, or authorize its member insurers to provide the International Motor Insurance Certificates to their insureds in respect of any motor vehicles insured by them against third party risks. In either case these shall conform to one of the models referred to in Appendices 1 to 2 to this annex. An International Motor Insurance Certificate may be (1) printed black on white or black on green or (2) presented in an electronic form independent of the software, hardware or operating system that it is displayed on.
4. An International Motor Insurance Certificate valid for the country or countries visited certifies the existence of insurance cover in respect of third-party liabilities, arising from road accidents caused by a visiting motorist, for which insurance is compulsory.
5. The acceptance of an International Motor Insurance Certificate by the insured authorizes the Bureau, under the authority of which it was provided and the Bureaux of any countries to which such power is delegated to accept service of legal proceedings in respect of any relevant claim.
6. When a claim is made against a person holding an International Motor Insurance Certificate, the Bureau of the country in which the accident occurred, acting under the authority referred to in paragraph 5 above, shall accept service of proceedings against that person. That Bureau shall handle and if necessary, settle the claim on behalf of the Bureau which either provided the International Motor Insurance Certificate or authorised its member insurer to do so.
7. However, insofar as the law permits, agreements shall be concluded by the Bureaux to permit an insurer authorized to carry out its activities in the country in which the accident occurred to handle claims against its own policyholders.
8. The Bureau of the country in which the accident occurred shall have regard, on request, to the conditions and limitations contained in the Policy of Insurance insofar as these are permitted under the law on compulsory third party motor insurance of that country.
9. Agreements between Bureaux shall provide for reimbursement in full of claims paid and for payment of any charges and fees that may be agreed.
10. Wherever possible, participating Governments shall aim at eliminating the inspection of International Motor Insurance Certificates at their frontiers by the conclusion by their respective Bureaux of specific agreements for that purpose. The Multilateral Guarantee Agreement, or a successor agreement drawn up by the Council of Bureaux, or similar agreements concluded bilaterally between Bureaux are examples of such agreements.
11. In each country the Government of which has adopted this Recommendation, International Motor Insurance Certificates shall be accepted, without any formality or cost, as evidence of insurance complying with the compulsory third party motor insurance law of

that country as regards vehicles in respect of which such International Motor Insurance Certificates have been issued.

12. Persons arriving with a motor vehicle, but without a valid International Motor Insurance Certificate of the approved type, in a country where insurance is compulsory or in a country the Bureau of which is not a Signatory of the Multilateral Guarantee Agreement (or a successor agreement drawn up by the Council of Bureaux or of a similar Agreement concluded between that Bureau and the Bureau of the “sending” country), may be required to:

- take out a frontier insurance or, insofar as the law of the visited country permits,
- take out a regular motor insurance policy for that country, or
- contribute to a guarantee scheme for the victims of accidents.

13. In countries where insurance is not compulsory in respect of the category of the vehicle of the visiting motorist, production of evidence of insurance shall not be required.

14. The International Motor Insurance Certificate shall conform in colour, content and layout to the models referred to in paragraph 3 above. The dimensions of the International Motor Insurance Certificate may be varied, provided that the format is not changed, but the overall size of the document shall not be larger than A4. The International Motor Insurance Certificate shall be made out in the language of the Bureau of issue and its title shall also be given in English and French. All data on the International Motor Insurance Certificate shall be recorded in the Latin alphabet with the option, if desired, to additionally record the same data in other alphabets.

15. Governments of other countries in which compulsory third party motor insurance law is in force and who intend to adopt this Recommendation shall notify the Secretariat of the Working Party that:

- the authorized motor insurers have established, or intend to establish, a Bureau with the authority to issue International Motor Insurance Certificates to their insureds travelling abroad.
- the Bureau is, or will be, equipped to handle third party claims covered by the International Motor Insurance Certificates of visiting motorists.
- the Bureau has the means to fulfil its financial obligations.
- they will accept International Motor Insurance Certificates as evidence that visiting motorists are insured to the extent required by the compulsory third party motor insurance law in that country.

16. Adoption of this Recommendation implies that Governments shall place no obstacle in the way of the export of currency to meet the international obligations incurred under the Agreements of the “Green Card System”. Governments shall provide the Economic Commission for Europe with a written undertaking in this respect.

17. The secretariat shall inform the Governments of all countries concerned and the Council of Bureaux at the earliest possible moment of the notifications received in accordance with paragraphs 15 and 16 above.

18. Any change to the “Green Card System” or to the format of the International Motor Insurance Certificate, which may be considered by a participating Government or by the Council of Bureaux to be necessary in the light of experience, shall be brought to the notice of the secretariat. The secretariat shall refer the proposed change to the Working Party for a decision.

Appendices 1 to 2 4

Models of the International Motor Insurance Certificate (Green Card)
(English only)

Appendices

- Appendix 1. Page 1.1: Portrait format, English, Front
 Page 1.2: Portrait format, English, Back (Voluntary).
- Appendix 2. Page 2.1: Landscape format, English, Front
 Page 2.2: Landscape format, English, Back (Voluntary).

To obtain more information on the models of the International Motor Insurance Certificate please consult the website of the Council of Bureaux¹ or send an enquiry at secretariat@cobx.org.

¹ www.cobx.org