Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods   **12 March 2013**
Bern, 18–22 March 2013
Item 3 of the provisional agenda
Standards

Amended reference to EN ISO/IEC 17020

Comments on INF.26

Transmitted by the Government of France

1.   During the discussions in 2012 on the proposal to amend the references to standard EN ISO/IEC 17020:2004 in several paragraphs of RID/ADR in order to take account of the revised version of that standard, some difficulties were raised.

2.   It was considered that any proposal for amendment of references to this standard should be accompanied by appropriate transitional measures.

3.   It was also noted that the revised version from 2012 of this standard included substantive changes and that it would be wiser for this point to be discussed again by the Working Group on Standards at the session of the Joint Meeting in March 2013.

4.   With its document INF.26, CEN presents some modifications between the 2004 and 2012 versions of this standard and proposes to modify the reference to this standard and to introduce a transitional measure.

5.   We thank CEN for raising this question but we would like to point out a substantial issue.

6.   In part 8 on "Management system requirements", EN ISO/IEC 17020:2012 introduces two options A and B. Option B is when: "An inspection body that has established and maintains a management system, in accordance with the requirements of ISO 9001, and that is capable of supporting and demonstrating the consistent fulfilment of the requirements of this International Standard, fulfils the management system clause requirements".

7.   In this case there is no management system audit from the accreditation body, and this seems to be a complete new approach.

8.   We would like to know the opinion of the Joint Meeting on the possible limitation to inspection bodies following option A for their accreditation procedure.