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**Economic Commission for Europe****Inland Transport Committee****Working Party on Inland Water Transport****Fifty-eighth session**

Geneva, 12–14 November 2014

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

**Mutual recognition of boatmasters' certificates and harmonization  
of professional requirements in inland navigation:****Second meeting of IEG****Standards of training and certification in inland navigation  
in the UNECE region\*****Note by the secretariat****I. Mandate**

1. This document is submitted in line with cluster 5: Inland Waterway Transport, paragraph 5.2 of the programme of work 2014–2015 (ECE/TRANS/2014/23) adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on 27 February 2014.
2. At its forty-fifth session, the secretariat was asked to include in the questionnaire for the fifty-eighth session of SC.3, a request to the UNECE member States to submit a synthesis (four pages maximum to send to the secretariat) of their information on their standards of training and certification in inland navigation (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2014/90, para. 26).
3. The Working Party may wish to consider this document prepared by the secretariat and based on the information provided by the UNECE member States.<sup>1</sup>

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, the source of information is the communication received by the secretariat from the Government of the country concerned.

## II. Standards of training and certification in inland navigation

### A. Czech Republic

4. The National Navigation Authority of the Czech Republic implements the Directive 96/50/EC;<sup>2</sup> its provisions have become part of the national legislation and of the examinations for obtaining the certificate.

### B. Germany

5. Standards of training and certification in inland navigation in Germany: for boatmen and boatmasters:

#### a) Boatmen

Germany applies STCIN column 1 (competence) and column 2 (knowledge).

The final exam consists of a practical and a written part.

The practical part consists of one work task. This part is to be performed and documented in not more than seven hours and it is to be explained in a 30-minute technical discussion. A possible work task is particularly the participation in the navigation of vessels. Here, the candidates are to demonstrate, among other things, that they are able to moor or unmoor vessels, operate technical devices, maintain wires and ropes, use life-saving appliances and protective equipment and operate lifeboats.

The written part covers the areas nautical science, marine engineering, machine and motor technology as well as economics and social studies. The maximum duration is six hours. The written part may be supplemented by an oral examination in some areas if this might be decisive for passing the exam.

#### b) Boatmasters

With respect to boatmasters, Germany has not established training standards. Examination programs are defined in annex D7 of Rhine Shipping Personal Regulation and in annex 11 of the Inland Boatmasters' Certificates Regulation, respectively. Both programs are quite similar. Their fundamental elements read as follows (taken from Rhine Shipping Personal Regulation, in French,<sup>3</sup> remarks in italics regard the German Inland Boatmasters' Certificates Regulation):

1. Knowledge of regulations, guidelines and manuals
- 1.1 Police Regulations for the Navigation of the Rhine
  - Visual signals on vessels
  - Sound signals
  - Signs for navigation
  - Markup of the waterway
  - Used-oil log
  - Radiotelephony
  - Waste disposal

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<sup>2</sup> See <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31996L0050>

<sup>3</sup> Translated into English by the secretariat.

- 1.2 Requirements for navigation on the maritime waterways (visual signals on vessels, sound signals, signs for navigation, maritime signals and marking, navigation regulations)
- 1.3 Rhine Vessel Inspection Regulations
  - Structure and content
  - Content of the inspection certificate
- 1.4 Requirements for crews, Title II of the Regulations for Rhine navigation personnel (and Regulations for Rhine inland navigation personnel)
- 1.5 ADN
  - Structure
  - Documents / instructions
  - Knowledge of the signs prescribed for blue cones/blue lights
  - Search service requirements
- 1.6 Provisions relating to certificate
  - Type of certificate
  - Criteria for withdrawal of certificate and for the suspension of the validity of the certificate
- 1.7 Accident prevention
- 1.8 *Regulation on the ferry services*
- 2. Nautical knowledge and sectors knowledge (using cartographic equipment)
  - 2.1 Waterways (main geographical, hydrological, meteorological and morphological characteristics)
  - 2.2 Required sectors knowledge
    - Description of the navigation fairway upstream and downstream
    - Dimensions of the waterway
  - 2.3 Navigation on the maritime waterways (heading determination, line position and positioning, use of maritime map, control procedures with compass, basic knowledge of tides)
  - 2.4 *Knowledge of the ferry sectors requested*
- 3. Professional knowledge (nautical competences, vessel operation techniques)
  - 3.1 Conduct of vessel
    - Steering, maneuverability
    - Function of the steering and propulsion installations
    - Effects of steam, wind and suction
    - Buoyancy, stability and their practical application
    - Anchoring and mooring
  - 3.2 Knowledge of the machines
    - Construction, operation of engines, function of electrical installations
    - Handling, operation control
    - Measures in case of malfunction
  - 3.3 Loading and unloading
    - Determination of the weight of the cargo using the measurement certificate
    - Use of draught scales
    - Stowage of cargo
  - 3.4 Conduct in special circumstances
    - Measures in case of damage, first aid, clogging of leak
    - Use of rescue equipment
    - Specifics in case of damage to the maritime waterways
    - Waste processing and prevention of water pollution
    - Information to competent authorities

## Fight against fires

**C. Slovakia**

## 6. Standards for Slovakia:

Boatmaster class I: complete secondary vocational education or complete secondary education, at least 4 year experience on relevant waterway. Possibility of recognizing education by one degree below if the candidate has at least 5 years of practice.

Boatmaster Class II: complete secondary vocational education or complete secondary education experience of at least 2 years on relevant waterway. Possibility of recognizing education by one degree below if the candidate has at least 3 years of practice.

Boatmaster Class III: basic education, experience minimum is half a year of practice on the relevant waterway.

Ferry boatman without own propeller: basic education, experience minimum is half year on the relevant waterway.

Boatman of floating equipment Class I: complete secondary vocational education or complete secondary education experience of at least two years on the relevant waterway, of which one year minimum on floating equipment. Possibility of recognizing education by one degree below if the candidate has one additional year of practice.

Boatman of floating equipment Class II: secondary vocational education, experience of at least two years on the relevant waterway, of which one year minimum on floating equipment. Possibility of recognizing education by one degree below if the candidate has an additional half year of practice.

Boatman of floating equipment Class I category B: secondary vocational education or secondary education experience of at least two years of which one year minimum on floating equipment. Possibility of recognizing education by one degree below if the candidate has an additional half year of practice.

Boatman of floating equipment Class II category B: secondary vocational education, experience of at least two years of which one year minimum on floating equipment. Possibility of recognizing education by one degree below if the candidate has an additional half year of practice.

Steersman: complete secondary vocational education or complete secondary education experience of at least 2 years on relevant waterway. Possibility of recognizing education by one degree below if the candidate has an additional year of practice

Head of navigation on the locks: certificate of professional competence to function skipper Class I or II, experience minimum of 3 months when operating in a particular lock or complete secondary education, experience minimum of half a year in operating on a particular lock.

Professional experience for large convoys' certificate (one tug and four barges): a person who wants to obtain a boatmaster's type "C" certificate for the Danube must possess the required qualifications that satisfy that he:

- a) physically and mentally fits for boatmaster's responsibilities;

b) didn't commit punishable acts in navigation;

c) is able, stemming from his previous behavior, to ensure safe navigation of vessel, convoy composed of five and more vessels and barges or passenger vessel. Employer's certificate shall serve as a proof of this fact. An applicant must provide proof of three years' sailing as boatmaster of type "A" or "B". Additionally, the applicant must have a minimum of one year of navigation service acquired in steering of a vessel which requires boatmaster's certificate of type "C". Applicant for types "A" and "B" certificates must not be less than 21 years old.

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