**Economic Commission for Europe**

Inland Transport Committee

**Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods 5 February 2024**

**Joint Meeting of the RID Committee of Experts and the   
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods**

Bern, 25-28 March 2024  
Item 6 of the provisional agenda:  
**Reports of informal working groups**

Report on the fifth meeting of the informal working group on e-learning

Transmitted by the Government of Germany and the International Road Transport Union (IRU)

I. Introduction

1. Based on the mandate given by the Joint Meeting during its autumn 2023 session – document ECE/TRANS/WP.15/AC.1/170 **–** a fifth meeting of the informal working group (IWG) on e-learning was held virtually (Webex) on 31 January 2024. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ivan Schmelczer, representative of IRU, and with Ms. Gudula Schwan, representative of Germany, acting as a Vice-Chair.

2. Participation on the fifth meeting. The following Contracting Parties to ADR and/or ADN, participated in the meeting: Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. The following associations were represented: European Barge Union (EBU), European Confederation of Fuel Distributors (ECFD), European Skippers Organisation (ESO), International Road Transport Union IRU. The total number of participants was 26.

II. Prework for the meeting

3. Germany created a draft document from the previous meetings. It was circulated to the invited participants after the fourth meeting of the IWG. The IWG received written comments from Denmark, Finland, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

4. Germany amended the draft document upon the comments and suggestions that were received by the date of the meeting.

III. Fifth meeting (31 January 2024)

5. The provisional agenda for the fifth meeting was the following:

* Remote training
* Clarification in definitions
* The necessity of limitations
* Discussing the comments received
* Scheduling the next meeting

6. Participants agreed to add ‘E-learning’ and ‘Remote training’ to the definitions. According to the participants, the remote training has a same value as the classroom training for the theoretical part. In remote training, the instructor is available online is synchronous form. The e-learning is asynchronous, whereas the instructor is not available. The e-learning course can be done by the driver at any time and any place.

7. The IWG agreed that remote training or e-learning is only available for the theoretical part. The practical part shall be organised as in-person training, only.

8. The remote training can substitute 100 percent of the in-person training in the theoretical part. However, the IWG could not agree in the maximum percentage or number of training units that can be used for e-learning from the theoretical training. The original proposal was 50 percent but this rate shall be determined by the competent authority.

9. The proposed regulation for the access control was shortened to a login name and password that can be created by the training company at the application of the driver for the refresher course.

10. The IWG decided to place the detailed quality requirements to the responsibility of the competent authority. The IWG kept the former version about the requirement of modular structure and performance check.

IV. Further action

11. Since the planned agenda was not completed, a new meeting session of the IWG was requested. The IWG received an opportunity for organising an in-person meeting (sixth meeting) during the next Joint Meeting in Bern. It can be scheduled as a lunch-time meeting on 27 March (Wednesday). The IWG requests the Secretariats to give permission for organising that sixth IWG meeting at 1 p.m. CET.

12. The IWG also agreed to schedule the following on-line session (seventh). This will be held on 29 April 2024 at 1 p.m. CET (Webex).

13. The actual version of the discussion paper is an annex to this report and is annexed to this informal document.

Annex

Discussion paper by Germany

Draft: E-learning in ADR refresher training programme

*The headings in italics are just for discussion purposes to clarify the relevant aspects and will not be incorporated in the final text:*

Insert definitions in 1.2.1

**E**

**E-learning** means asynchronous teaching conducted with information and communication technology (ICT) tools where students and teachers are separated in both space and time.

**R**

**Remote training** means that the teaching is interactive and takes place in real time by using information and communication technology.

**Insert a new 8.2.2.5.4 in the ADR**:

*(General authorization)*

A refresher training course may include training) held in person, as remote training or as e-learning.

*(Limitations)*

The subjects shall be suitable for e-learning. Individual practical exercises according to 8.2.2.3.8 shall not be replaced by e-learning modules or remote training.

The theoretical part of the training shall not be replaced by e-learning completely.

*(Software and access control)*

[Proper technical functioning of the e-learning and the remote training shall be ensured by the training body. The e-learning modules shall require reliable user identification.]

*(Quality)*

The e-learning shall be divided into modules. The different modules shall cover a distinct subject and the modules shall form together a coherent entity.

For e-learning, a performance check shall be carried out after each module. Only after a successful performance check is it possible to work on the next module. If the performance review is not successful, the respective [performance check] [module shall] be repeated.

The training body shall ensure technically that the prescribed training content is actually completed by e-learning. The examination in accordance with 8.2.2.7 for the refresher training shall be completed no later than [four][xx] weeks after the registered start of the e-learning.

*(Connection with the (face-to-face) training in presence)*

Only after successful completion of the e-learning modules, the remaining modules for the refresher training can be completed in presence.

**Consequential amendments to 8.2.2.3?**

8.2.2.3.1 Training shall be given in the form of a basic training course and, when applicable, specialization training courses. Basic training courses and specialization training courses may be given in the form of comprehensive training courses, conducted integrally, on the same occasion and by the same training body.

**Consequential amendments to 8.2.2.6**?

*(Existing Text)*

8.2.2.6.1 The training courses shall be subject to approval by the competent authority.

8.2.2.6.2 Approval shall only be given with regard to applications submitted in writing.

8.2.2.6.3 The following documents shall be attached to the application for approval:

(a) A detailed training programme specifying the subjects taught and indicating the time schedule and planned teaching methods;

(b) Qualifications and fields of activities of the teaching personnel;

(c) Information on the premises where the courses take place and on the teaching materials as well as on the facilities for the practical exercises;

(d) Conditions of participation in the courses, such as number of participants.

8.2.2.6.4 The competent authority shall organize the supervision of training and examinations.

8.2.2.6.5 Approval shall be granted in writing by the competent authority subject to the following conditions:

(a) The training shall be given in conformity with the application documents;

(b) The competent authority shall be granted the right to send authorized persons to be present at the training courses and examinations

(c) The competent authority shall be advised in time of the dates and the places of the individual training courses;

(d) The approval may be withdrawn if the conditions of approval are not complied with.

8.2.2.6.6 The approval document shall indicate whether the courses concerned are basic or specialization training courses, initial or refresher training courses, and whether they are limited to specific dangerous goods or a specific class or classes.

8.2.2.6.7 If the training body, after a training course has been given approval, intends to make any alterations with respect to such details as were relevant to the approval, it shall seek permission in advance from the competent authority. This applies in particular to changes concerning the training programme.