

## **INF. 12(E)**

### **Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Seventy-first session, Geneva, 5 - 9 November 2001)**

#### **Transmitted by the Government of Norway**

### **Working Group on "Type EX/II and EX/III vehicles"**

1. As decided at the seventieth session of the ECE/WP.15 (see paragraphs 64-65 in the report from the session), Norway will organize an informal Working Group on 17 – 19 December 2001 in Toensberg, Norway to discuss the technical provisions for vehicles carrying Class 1 substances and articles. Invitations have already been sent out earlier to those member states and organisations that have indicated an interest to participate in such a working group.

The background documents for the WG will be the proposals from Austria in doc. TRANS/WP/15/2001/2 and from Norway in doc. 2001/11, 2001/14 and 2001/15, even though it was realised during the discussions in the ad hoc working group at the seventieth session that the problems in connection with the present provisions for EX/II- and EX/III- vehicles were more fundamental than the ones presented in these proposals. The discussions will therefore have to go beyond the issues raised in the above documents.

2. During the discussions at the seventieth session, Norway interpreted the discussions in the ad hoc working group to indicate that, due to the latest developments in the manufacture and use of explosives in Europe, it is necessary to take a new approach in establishing technical requirements for vehicles for transport of such goods. The amount of traditional explosives transported has been reduced due to the introduction of less sensitive substances, such as ANFO's and on-site mixed explosives. Furthermore, it is, in the view of many transport companies, both impractical and un-economical to acquire specialized and costly "EX-vehicles" in a diminishing market. This has led to difficulties in transporting explosives in some member states.

3. The starting point for the discussions should in the opinion of the expert from Norway be a wish to start from scratch, setting the scene for a more modern, up to date set of regulations concerning vehicles for transport of explosives. The goal should be to identify the real safety issues and take into account the technological developments regarding vehicle construction, as well as the technical equipment available today or in the near future for monitoring the status of various vehicle parts during carriage, to solve these issues. Furthermore, the regulations should be aimed at reducing the risk of accidents occurring rather than concentrating on solving the problem after it has developed. This is very much the situation with the present requirements for load compartments in 9.3.4.

4. New requirements that could be implemented as substitutes for the present ones are:

- Ban on re-threaded tires
- Constant surveillance of tire pressure
- Automatic fire extinguishers in engine compartments
- Automatic fire extinguishers in closed loading compartments
- Reference to standards for building materials in loading platforms
- Reference to standards for tarpaulins/sheeting
- Temperatur surveillance of axle bearing/brakes
- Automatic cable cutters for battery cables

5. A fundamental question that should be raised in connection with this discussion is also whether some, or indeed all, of such provisions should be introduced on dangerous goods vehicles at large, and not only for vehicles for Class 1. This will undoubtedly lead to enhanced safety in transport of dangerous goods generally, and to a clearer situation for the transporters on whether or not to facilitate for the transport of explosives.

A clear decision should also be taken on whether ADR shall incorporate technical requirements that is founded on security, rather than on the issue of transport safety based on the actual dangers related to the goods carried. Furthermore, if so is the case, whether such requirements also are needed for other dangerous goods as compared to the need established for Class 1 substances and articles.

-----