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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Working Party on the Standardization of Technical
and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation

Thirty-fourth session

Geneva, 11-13 February 2009

Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda

**RESOLUTION NO. 31 “MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF
BOATMASTER’S LICENSES IN INLAND NAVIGATION WITH A VIEW TO THEIR
RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC”**

Other measures related to the mutual recognition of boatmasters’ licenses

Note by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. It is recalled that Resolution No. 258 of the Inland Transport Committee with the Plan of action for the implementation of the decisions taken by the pan-European Conference on Inland Water Transport requests the Working Party on Inland Water Transport and its relevant subsidiary bodies to cooperate with River Commissions in order to rationalize and unify as much as possible the requirements on checking the knowledge by boatmasters of specific stretches of inland waterways and their navigating skills on those stretches (ECE/TRANS/192, Annex II, item 2).

2. At the meeting of volunteer experts on the mutual recognition of the boatmaster’s licences on 18 September 2008, experts recognized that it could be useful to collect the information on

the local knowledge requirements in the UNECE countries (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2009/7, para.19).

3. Bearing this in mind, the secretariat in consultation with River Commissions, prepared a draft table which could be used to collect information on the local knowledge requirements existing in the UNECE region.
4. The Working Party may wish to consider the format of the table and invite countries and River commissions to assist the secretariat in collecting this information, so that a preliminary document could be present at the next session of SC.3/WP.3 in June 2009.

II. LOCAL KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS EXISTING IN THE UNECE REGION

Country	Name and number of E-waterway ¹	Sector of the waterway	Reasons for requiring local conditions knowledge ²	Local knowledge requirements	
				Professional experience (number of runs)	Modalities of examination on local conditions. ³
Austria					
Belarus					
Belgium					
Bulgaria					
Croatia					
Czech Republic					
Finland					
France					
Germany					
Hungary					
Ireland					
Italy					
Lithuania					

¹ As referenced in the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN)

² Reasons may include: a) free current; b) narrow fairway, c) sand banks, d) variable hydraulicity, e) strong streams, f) modifications of the river bed, g) cliffs, h) fords, i) other.

³ Modalities of the examination include: a) oral or written, b) practice or use of simulators, c) modalities of the choice of the sector.

Country	Name and number of E-waterway ¹	Sector of the waterway	Reasons for requiring local conditions knowledge ²	Local knowledge requirements	
				Professional experience (number of runs)	Modalities of examination on local conditions. ³
Luxembourg					
Moldova					
Netherlands					
Poland					
Romania					
Russian Federation					
Serbia					
Slovakia					
Switzerland					
Ukraine					
United Kingdom					
United States					
