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Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

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Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda

PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO ATP

New proposals

Tests for renewal of ATP certificates at 12 years

Transmitted by the Government of France

Note by the secretariat

The programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2006-2010, adopted at its sixty-eighth session, in 2006 (ECE/TRANS/166/Add.1, item 2.11 (a)), requires the Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs to ensure the harmonization of regulations and standards relating to the international transport of perishable foodstuffs and the facilitation of its operations, inter alia, by considering proposals for amendments to ATP to ensure it is updated as necessary. The present document is submitted in conformity with that mandate.

Introduction

1. For many years, France has issued ATP certificates for equipment over 12 years old only after testing of the insulating capacity and efficiency at an official ATP testing station.
2. On the basis of these tests (350 per year), the ageing of this equipment may be estimated at 5% per year, but there is significant variation (between 2% and 10% per year). Taking into account the rise in average and maximum temperatures across the world, the value of the K coefficient is increasingly important. There is thus a need to maintain a good value for this coefficient over the years.

Proposal

3. One solution to the problem of the ageing of the bodies would be to install refrigeration units with a large safety coefficient. Given that the average value of the K coefficient is close to $0.40 \text{ W.m}^{-2}.\text{K}^{-1}$, the capacity of the units installed on such bodies is very high. Most manufacturers seek to achieve the best value for the K coefficient with as much equipment as possible. This is why the bodies commonly manufactured have a lower value for the K coefficient than the theoretical value.
4. In most European countries, summer temperatures are higher than they were a few years ago and, in most countries, temperature peaks are significantly greater than the reference used in ATP (+ 30 °C). Consequently, the risk of poor product temperatures is very high.
5. It is important to make actual measurements during the life of equipment, rather than simply running performance tests similar to those conducted for renewal at six and nine years.
6. Accordingly, France is proposing that testing of insulating capacity and efficiency, as prescribed in annex 1, appendix 2, should be a condition for renewal of ATP certificates at 12 years and beyond.

Economic and environmental impact of the proposal

7. Given the significant economic impact of such testing, owing to the cost of the test itself and the duration, it is reasonable to require this test at 12 years.
8. The economic impact relates to:
 - Cost of the test (several thousand euros);
 - Immobilization of the equipment during testing (several hundred euros);
 - Maintenance (no additional cost, since necessary);
 - Impact of the maintenance (lower fuel consumption);
 - Impact of the quality of production (difficult to determine).

9. Lastly, taking into consideration the price of fuel and the environmental impact, high-consumption equipment should be avoided. For a vehicle with an initial K coefficient of 0.35 ageing at a rate of 5% per year (i.e. 0.56 after 12 years), the increase in fuel consumption for long-distance transport (according to the Transfrigoroute consumption simulator) would be more than 5,000 litres per year.

Example:

		K : 0.35		K : 0.56		Difference
Overall	1 diesel oil/year	69 942	100.0%	75 132	100.0%	5 190
Cooling:	1 diesel oil/year	9 042	12.9%	14 232	18.9%	5 190
Road:	1 diesel oil/year	60 900	87.1%	60 900	81.1%	0

Conclusion

10. On the basis of these elements, the protocol proposed seeks to harmonize renewal testing in the ATP Contracting Parties and to establish a more equitable procedure. To enable users to adapt their equipment, it is proposed to restrict the new procedure to equipment manufactured after the protocol's entry into force. Certificates for existing equipment could be renewed under the old procedure for as long as the equipment remained in service.

Amendment proposal

Annex 1, Appendix 2

49. To verify as prescribed in appendix 1, paragraphs 1 (b) and 1 (c), to this annex the efficiency of the thermal appliance of each item of refrigerated, mechanically refrigerated or heated equipment in service **under 12 years old**, the competent authorities may:

[...]
