

Working Groups Monthly Roundup

September 2022

Digitalisation

In 2021 ECG started a joint project with [Odette International](#) on the development of a **standard for the VIN label** in the finished vehicle supply chain, which will be based on ECG's own [recommendation on VIN labels](#). Some final questions are currently being clarified. What is certain that the fuel type of the vehicle will be put on the proposed label. This would already fulfil some future requirements on visually identifying Alternative Fuel Vehicles, which is a real need in maritime transport. Besides this the group has agreed to propose a 2D barcode on the VIN label as these are more resistant and can bear more information than their 1D peers. However, in an optional data field a 1D barcode will be easily added if an OEM prefers that. As the discussions are still on-going anyone with an interest in the VIN labels can join, but we foresee a rapid wrap-up of the topic.

The strategic project on **Digital Vehicle Handover** (DVH) has delivered its final [recommendation](#), which can be downloaded from the ECG website. It is now generally accepted that Artificial Intelligence enabling Automatic Damage Recognition will not achieve sufficiently high levels of accuracy in the foreseeable future to directly replace visual inspections in the supply chain (despite it being already available for end-of-line inspections). Therefore, the group dedicated its time to the discussions on the digital condition capture of the vehicle using photo booths. ECG sees that awareness raising on this technology is the most important next step. The uptake of these solutions will be facilitated by a dedicated legal protocol which was drafted by a transport lawyer and is free for anyone to use in contracts.

During the Digitalisation Working Group's meeting on 28 June a **Telematics** sub-group was set up. It will envisage the data needs of the OEMs and the LSPs, both for the data coming from the vehicle and also from the transport means (truck, train, ship). The group is in its early stages – more details will be communicated soon.

With any enquiry on this Working Group or its sub-groups, please contact [Szilvi Kiss](#).

Health & Safety

The incident reporting website was produced to report on severe accidents and near-misses in truck transportation by one of the sub-groups of the Health & Safety Working Group (H&S WG). The website was developed by our member Avtologistika and was active since 2018. A few months ago it stopped working due to technical issues linked to the war in Ukraine. ECG, therefore, decided to re-build the website to continue with this activity. The new website is now ready and under testing by the members of the incident reporting sub-group. The testing period will run until the end of September. This will allow us to re-launch it to ECG members operating trucks and ask them to report on 2021 and 2022 incidents.

Lastly, [Jovana Vancevska](#), our new permanent member of the ECG team, will take over the H&S WG management. The members of the group will hear from her in the coming weeks for proper introductions.

For more information, or to join the group, contact [Andreea Serbu](#).

Maritime & Ports

The next meeting will be held on 24-25 October at Antwerp port in Belgium and it is hosted by Port of Antwerp-Bruges, Antwerp Euroterminal (AET) and INFORM.

The agenda includes updates and presentations on innovation in terminals and car transport and Port Exemption Certificates amongst others. The meeting will end with the tour of the new Grimaldi (AET) parking facility. You may find the agenda [here](#).

For more information, or to join the Working Group, please contact [Jovana Vancevska](#).

Quality

The VDI's (*Verein Deutscher Ingenieure*, German Engineer Association) loading guideline 2700 is referenced in ECG's Operations Quality Manuals. VDI has been reviewing two parts of the standard in the last years: Part 8.1 'Securing of loads on road vehicles, securing of passenger cars and cargo minivans on vehicle transporters' of April 2009 and Part 8.2 'Securing of loads on road vehicles, securing of trucks on vehicle transporters' of December 2010. Colleagues from TÜV SÜD came to present on this at the March Quality Working Group meeting and also at the ECG General Assembly & Spring Congress in Malaga.

The recent changes will be approved by a VDI working group in October this year, then published by VDI in 1-1.5 years at which time they become official. Information flyers in [English](#) and [German](#) languages are already available for anyone involved in truck transport so that all companies are prepared for the changes that will come in the course of 2023. Although the standards will not be enforced for a while, the specification on lashings is different and members may wish to already take this into account when purchasing lashing straps.

There is no date set for the next Quality Working Group meeting. It will most probably be held in Q4 2022.

In case you want to join this group please contact [Szilvi Kiss](#).

Sustainability

The Sustainability Working Group is waiting to start working on the joint ECG-Odette-VDA project on defining a standard methodology for emissions calculation and reporting in the automotive supply chain. A status update meeting took place on 8 July. Some details are being finalised by the consortium before the work begins.

For more information, or to join the group, contact [Andreea Serbu](#).

Regional Meetings

UK & Ireland

The next meeting will be on 10 November 22 in London sponsored by Aston Lark. For more information, or to join the group, please contact the [ECG secretariat](#)

Eastern Region

The latest meeting took place on 8 September in Bucharest, Romania. See [here](#) our ECG News article about the event. The next meeting will be organised in April 2023. We will announce the location in due course. For any questions, please contact [Andreea Serbu](#).

EU Affairs

The European Commission (EC) published a [consultation](#) on the CountEmissions EU initiative. This initiative aims at setting out a common framework to calculate and report transport-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at EU level. Standardisation of emissions reporting in finished vehicle logistics is also a strategic priority for ECG as described under Sustainability above. The consultation will be open until 17 October. We invite all ECG members to provide input to the consultation.

For more information, please contact [Andreea Serbu](#).