



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
RESTRICTED

TRANS/WP.29/GRE/2003/1
27 January 2003

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH
ENGLISH AND FRENCH
ONLY

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)

Working Party on Lighting and Light-Signalling (GRE)

(Fiftieth session, 7-11 April 2003,
agenda item 1.4.)

PROPOSAL FOR DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION No. 48

(Installation of lighting and light-signalling devices)

Transmitted by the expert from Finland

Note: The text reproduced below was prepared by the expert from Finland in order to introduce into the Regulation provisions allowing the installation on vehicles of triangular retro-reflectors of Class IIIB. The proposal is based on a document distributed without a symbol (informal document No. 7) during the forty-ninth session of GRE (TRANS/WP.29/GRE/49, para. 27).

Note: This document is distributed to the Experts on Lighting and Light-Signalling only.

A. PROPOSAL

Paragraph 6.15.2., amend the words "Class IIIA" to read "Class IIIA or Class IIIB".

Paragraph 6.15.7., amend to read:

"6.15.7. Other requirements

The illuminating surface of the retro-reflector may have parts in common with the apparent surface of any other lamp situated at the rear."

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B. JUSTIFICATION

1. By permitting the triangular rear retro-reflector to be Class IIIB and to have a common apparent surface with any other lamp or lamps, makes it possible to use common, widely proven solutions or even common parts with vehicle lamps, which improves the general quality level of trailer lamps.
2. The safety decreasing situation where snow attaches to the retro-reflector is avoided because the heat coming from lamps melts the snow away from the retro-reflector.
3. This also makes it possible for the devices to get the same type of appearance as other automotive lighting devices; it gives more volume.
4. As the area of the triangular rear retro-reflector is quite large, it still meets the photometrical requirements even when other signalling functions can be seen through the apparent surface of the retro-reflector, that is, some prisms are replaced by other types of optics. The shape of the retro-reflector remains the same and reflects normally even when the signalling function is switched on.
