

Proposal for a draft amendment of regulation No. 16 (Safety belts) and comments on ECE/TRANS/WP29/GRSP/2008/28.

A. PROPOSAL

Paragraph 7.4.1.2.2, amend to read:

"7.4.1.2.2. After exposure the strap shall be **conditioned in accordance with ISO 139 (2005), using the alternative standard atmosphere**. If the test is not carried out immediately after conditioning, the specimen shall be placed in a hermetically-closed receptacle until the test begins. The breaking load shall be determined within 5 minutes after removal of the strap from the conditioning installation."

Paragraph 7.4.1.3.2, amend to read:

"7.4.1.3.2. The strap shall be **conditioned in accordance with ISO 139 (2005), using the alternative standard atmosphere**."

Paragraph 7.4.1.6.2, amend to read:

"7.4.1.6.2. The samples shall be the strap shall be **conditioned in accordance with ISO 139 (2005), using the alternative standard atmosphere**. The ambient temperature during the abrasion procedure shall be between 15 and 30° C."

B. JUSTIFICATION

In the same way paragraph 7.4.1.1 was amended (see document ECE/TRANS/WP29/2008/60 adopted by WP29 at its 145th session), paragraphs 7.4.1.2.2, 7.4.1.3.2. and 7.4.1.6.2. should be amended.

On the other hand, CLEPA does not support the modifications proposed by Japan in GRSP/2008/28 on paragraph 7.4.1.1. As explained in GRSP/2007/21:

Currently (i.e. before the entry into force of ECE/TRANS/WP29/2008/60), the Regulation requires 24 hours duration for conditioning of the samples. This requirement does not take into consideration the real behaviour of materials with respect to how long it takes to reach a maximum degree of saturation with water. For example for Polyethersulphone Fiber (PES), the nature of which is not to absorb a significant amount of water, conditioning is completed when the sample fabric is in balance with surrounding atmosphere. Balance is reached if subsequent weight measurements at 2 hours interval do not show difference in weight of more than 0.25 per cent. ISO 139 (2005) takes advantage of this when for the conditioning mass change of the specimen is constantly checked. Due to this conditioning in accordance with ISO 139 (2005), using the alternative standard atmosphere is current practice of most Technical Services. Hence, the amendment proposed will align today's practice with the Regulation.

The table below gives examples for duration of conditioning to reach the balance mentioned above for some webbing types.

Webbing type Sample length ~20 cm	Weight new state [g]	Weight after conditioning at 23 °C / 50 per cent [g]	Duration of conditioning [h]
piece dyed	10.02	10.02	2
spun dyed	10.04	10.04	2
piece dyed	10.03	10.03	1
spun dyed	10.56	10.56	1

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