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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety  
(Thirty-ninth session, 23-26 September 2002,  
agenda item 3 (c))

AMENDMENTS TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1968 CONVENTIONS ON ROAD  
TRAFFIC AND ON ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS AND THE 1971 EUROPEAN AGREEMENTS  
SUPPLEMENTING THEM

**Driving permits**

Note by the secretariat

1. The third meeting of the WP.1 small group on driving permits was held in Annecy (France) from 4 to 6 April 2002. The meeting was organized and hosted by Mr. N. Rogers (International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA)).
2. The following members participated: Mr. A.Y. Yakimov (Russian Federation), Chairman; Mr. Y. Sadeh (Israel); Mr. S. Avram (Romania); Mr. Martoma (Romania); Mrs. R. Casado (Spain); Mr. D. Regamey (Switzerland); Mr. N. Rogers (IMMA); Mr. M. Calvin (ISO). Mrs. D. Smith (AIT/FIA) participated as an observer. The UNECE secretariat was represented by Mrs. M.-N. Poirier and Mr. C. Smith.
3. The small group agreed to the proposal made in the Annex to the present document. Modifications are proposed to Articles 41, 42, 43 and Annexes 6 and 7 of the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic. New text appears in italics. The small group agreed that the proposal should be submitted for consideration by WP.1 at its thirty-ninth session and then if agreed by the Working Party it should be transmitted to the Legal Group to ensure its legal consistency and final wording.

4. The small group questioned whether it would also be necessary to amend the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic since that Convention has many more Contracting Parties than the 1968 Convention and many more outside the European region. It suggested that this matter be debated in WP.1 and that if the response was positive the secretariat could write to 1949 Contracting Parties asking them if they agreed with the need to amend the 1949 Convention concerning driving permits.

5. In drawing up the final proposal, the small group took into account the results of its previous meetings held in Madrid (TRANS/WP.1/2001/32) and St. Petersburg (TRANS/WP.1/2002/3) as well as written comments (TRANS/WP.1/2002/8 and Add.1 and 2) and oral comments made during the thirty-eighth session of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1).

#### Articles

6. The small group proposes to add provisions to Article 41.1 (b) regarding the qualification of driving examiners and to 41.1 (c) stating that requirements for obtaining a driving permit shall include theoretical and practical exams and medical conditions.

7. The small group proposes to delete paragraph 41.2 (a) since the new draft of Annex 6 would require all entries on the permit to be made in the Latin alphabet or if not to be transliterated into the Latin alphabet. In addition, a certified translation would no longer be necessary because permits would be standardised.

8. The small group decided to propose a new paragraph 41.3 which would prevent countries limiting the validity of a permit issued by another country except in cases where there had been a change in the civil or residency status of the holder.

9. In paragraph 41.3 (c), the small group proposes to add the categories CE and DE and delete the old category E referring to combinations of vehicles. Information regarding categories of motor vehicles as contained in paragraphs 41.4 and 41.5 is moved to annexes 6 and 7.

10. In Article 42 – Suspension of the validity of driving permits – the small group proposes to add a new paragraph 4 which requires Contracting Parties to ensure that if a driver's domestic permit is withdrawn, his/her international driving permit shall also be withdrawn. The small group recognised that, since the majority of IDPs are issued by motoring clubs, this measure might require the establishment of new mechanisms to ensure coordination between DDP issuing authorities and motoring clubs.

11. The small group proposes new transitional provisions (Article 43) for the introduction of DDPs issued in conformity with the new Annex 6. Contracting Parties would be required to issue the new DDP to new applicants at the latest 10 years after the entry into force of the amendment to the Convention. Domestic driving permits issued before the entry into force would remain valid until their expiry as fixed by national legislation. The new Article 43 would require Contracting Parties to issue the new model IDP at the latest 10 years after the entry into force of the amendment to the Convention. After that date IDPs would only be issued for DDPs which do

not conform to the new Annex 6, i.e. the holders of the new DDP would not be required to also hold an IDP.

#### Annex 6

12. The new Annex 6 proposes that the new DDP should preferably be of credit card format and pink in colour. On the front side, there should be a common symbol and the distinguishing sign of the country of issuance. The proposal speaks of the possible use of the UNECE Road Safety Week logo but other symbols which may be considered include the United Nations wreath with a steering wheel inside or the United Nations wreath with the distinguishing sign inside.

13. Paragraph 4 of the Annex 6 proposal lists 12 obligatory data elements (1, 2, 3, 4 (a), (b), (c), 5, 6, 7, 9, 12 including family name, number of permit, photograph of holder, etc. and paragraph 5 lists items 3, 4 (d), 8, 10, 11, 13, and 14 which are optional but may be required by national legislation.

14. Paragraph 8 defines the categories of vehicles for which the permit may be issued – A, B, C, D, BE, CE, DE – and paragraph 9 defines the subcategories A1, B1, C1, D1, C1E, D1E. Pictograms of categories and subcategories are given in paragraph 11.

#### Annex 7

15. On model page No. 2 of the proposed Annex 7 regarding the IDP, new text is proposed which states that the IDP shall be valid “upon the production of the corresponding valid domestic driving permit”. Model page No. 3 (left-hand) provides the table of pictograms of vehicle categories and subcategories but without the written definition of each since this information is given in Annex 6.

#### Other business

16. The representative of ISO/IEC, Mr. M. Calvin, informed the small group about ongoing work on draft international standard ISO/IEC WD 18013 entitled “International Drivers Licence – Part 1: Physical Characteristics and Basic Data Set”. He explained that the project is divided into three phases. The first phase is to determine the human visible qualities of the ISO-compliant licence card. The second is to standardize the machine-readable technologies that may be used on the card and the third is to standardize the biometric data that may be stored on the card. He invited representatives of the small group to attend the next ISO/IEC meeting on this subject to be held in London from 17-19 June 2002.

17. The representative of AIT/FIA, Ms. D. Smith, informed the small group about a poll done by her organization on the issuance of international driving permits. 117 countries have signed the 1949 and/or the 1968 Conventions. 59 countries are Contracting Parties only to the 1949 Convention; 26 are Contracting Parties only to the 1968 Convention. 32 countries are Contracting Parties to both the 1949 and 1968 Conventions. 55 countries issue the 1949 model IDP; 35 issue the 1968 model; certain countries issue both. In 67 per cent of the countries polled (54 out of 81), it is the automobile clubs which are authorized to issue IDPs.

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Annex

**Proposals to amend the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic**

(Changes to existing text in italics)

ARTICLE 41

Driving permits

1. (a) Every driver of a motor vehicle must hold a driving permit;  
(b) Contracting Parties undertake to ensure that driving permits are issued only after verification by the competent authorities that the driver possesses the required knowledge and skill; *the persons authorized to check if drivers have the necessary knowledge and skills must have appropriate qualifications; the contents and procedure of both theoretical and practical exams are regulated by national legislation;*  
(c) Domestic legislation must lay down requirements for obtaining a driving permit; *including those for the theoretical and practical exams and medical conditions;*  
(d) Nothing in this Convention shall be construed as preventing Contracting Parties or subdivisions thereof from requiring driving permits for other power-driven vehicles and mopeds.
2. Contracting Parties shall recognize:  
(a) Any domestic permit conforming to the provisions of Annex 6 to this Convention, *and*  
(b) Any international permit conforming to the provisions of Annex 7 to this Convention; as valid for driving in their territories a vehicle coming within the categories covered by the permit, provided that the permit is still valid and that it was issued by another Contracting Party or subdivision thereof or by an association duly empowered thereto by such other Contracting Party. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to learner-driver permits.
3. *Domestic legislation may limit the duration of a domestic driving permit. The validity period of both domestic and international driving permits issued by a Party to the Convention may be limited in the territory of another Party to the Convention solely by the validity period of the permit as established by the Party that issued it, or due to a change in the civil status of the holder in compliance with the national legislation of the Party to the Convention.*
4. Notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding paragraph:  
(a) Where the validity of the driving permit is made subject by special endorsement to the condition that the holder shall wear certain devices or that the vehicle shall be equipped in a certain way to take account of the driver's disability, the permit shall not be recognized as valid unless those conditions are observed;  
(b) Contracting Parties may refuse to recognize the validity in their territories of driving permits held by persons under eighteen years of age;  
(c) Contracting Parties may refuse to recognize the validity in their territories, for the driving of motor vehicles or combinations of vehicles in *categories C, D, CE and DE* referred to in Annexes 6 and 7 to this Convention, of driving permits held by persons under twenty-one years of age.

5. An international permit shall be issued only to the holder of a domestic permit for the issue of which the minimum conditions laid down in this Convention have been fulfilled. It shall not be valid after the expiry of the corresponding domestic permit, the number of which shall be entered in the international permit.
6. The provisions of this Article shall not require Contracting Parties:
  - (a) To recognize the validity of domestic or international permits issued in the territory of another Contracting Party to persons who had their normal residence in their territories at the time of such issue or whose normal residence has been transferred to their territories since such issue; or
  - (b) To recognize the validity of permits as aforesaid issued to drivers whose normal residence at the time of such issue was not in the territory in which the permit was issued or who since such issue have transferred their residence to another territory.

## ARTICLE 42

### Suspension of the validity of driving permits

1. Contracting Parties or subdivisions thereof may withdraw from a driver the right to use his domestic or international driving permit in their territories if he commits in their territories a breach of their regulations rendering him liable under their legislations to the forfeiture of his permit. In such a case the competent authority of the Contracting Party or subdivision thereof withdrawing the right to use the permit may:
  - (a) Withdraw and retain the permit until the period of the withdrawal of use expires or until the holder leaves its territory, whichever is the earlier;
  - (b) Notify the withdrawal of the right to use the permit to the authority by or on behalf of which the permit was issued;
  - (c) In the case of an international permit, enter in the space provided for the purpose an endorsement to the effect that the permit is no longer valid in its territories;
  - (d) Where it has not applied the procedure for which provision is made in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph, supplement the communication referred to in subparagraph (b) by requesting the authority which issued the permit, or on behalf of which the permit was issued, to notify the person concerned of the decision taken with regard to him.
2. Contracting Parties shall endeavour to notify the persons concerned of the decisions communicated to them in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 1 (d) of this Article.
3. Nothing in this Convention shall be construed as prohibiting Contracting Parties or subdivisions thereof from preventing a driver holding a domestic or international driving permit from driving if it is evident or proved that his condition is such that he is unable to drive safely or if the right to drive has been withdrawn from him in the State in which he has his normal residence.

4. *Contracting Parties shall foresee a provision in their legislation such that when a person with permanent residence in the territory of a Contracting Party is deprived of the right to operate a vehicle, any international driving permit issued to him/her shall be taken away from him/her together with the domestic driving permit.*

#### ARTICLE 43

##### Transitional provisions

1. *Contracting Parties shall issue domestic driving permits in accordance with the new text of Annex 6, at the latest [10] years after its entry into force.*

2. *Domestic driving permits issued prior to the entry into force of the new text of Annex 6 shall remain valid, subject to paragraph 3 of Article 41.*

3. *Contracting Parties shall issue international driving permits in accordance with the new text of Annex 7 at the latest [10] years after its entry into force. After that date Contracting Parties shall only issue international driving permits to accompany domestic driving permits issued before that date and which do not conform to the new text of Annex 6.*

*Formulate Annex 6 to the Convention as follows:*

#### “Annex 6

##### Domestic Driving Permit

1. A domestic driving permit shall take the form of a document.
2. *A permit should preferably be 54 x 86 mm in size. The permit may be made of plastic or paper. The colour of the permit, preferably pink, the print and spaces for the entries to be made shall be defined by national legislation.*
3. *On the front side of the permit is the title “Driving Permit” in the national language (national languages) of the country issuing the permit, and [a symbol related to driving, (perhaps the UN road safety week symbol?)] as well as the name and/or the distinguishing sign of the country which issued the permit.*
4. *It is compulsory to indicate in the permit the data listed below; in the order of the numbers given below and in paragraph 5:*
  1. *Family name;*
  2. *Given name, other names;*
  3. *Date of birth;*
  4. *(a) Date of issue;*
  4. *(b) Expiry date*
  4. *(c) Name or stamp of the authority which issued the permit;*
  5. *Number of the permit;*

6. *Photograph of the holder;*
7. *Signature of the holder;*
9. *Categories (subcategories) for which the permit is valid;*
12. *Additional information or limitations for each category (subcategory) of vehicles in coded form.*

*[Note: proposals on the codes to be used will be developed by the ISO representative in the IDP/DDP Group.]*

5. *Additional information may be entered on the driving permit, if required by national legislation, under the following numbers:*
  3. *Place of birth (in addition to date of birth);*
  - 4 (d) *Identification number for the purposes of registration, other than the number under 5;*
  8. *Permanent place of residence;*
  10. *Date of issue for each category (subcategory) of vehicles;*
  11. *Expiration date for each category (subcategory) of vehicles;*
  13. *Information for purposes of registration in the case of a change in country of permanent residence;*
  14. *Information for purposes of registration or other information related to road traffic safety.*
6. *All the entries on the permit shall be made only in the Latin alphabet or, if drawn up in a national language, shall be transliterated into the Latin alphabet.*
7. *The information under numbers 1-7 should preferably be on the same side of the permit. The spaces for other data under numbers 8-14 should be set by domestic legislation. Domestic legislation may also allocate a space on the permit for the inclusion of electronically stored information.*
8. *The driving permit may be issued for the following categories of vehicles:*
  - “A” - motorcycles;*
  - “B” - motor vehicles, other than those in category “A”, with a maximum authorized mass not exceeding 3,500 kg, and having no more than eight seats in addition to the driver’s seat;*
  - “C” - motor vehicles, other than those in category “D”, with a maximum authorized weight exceeding 3,500 kg;*
  - “D” - motor vehicles used for the carriage of passengers and having more than eight seats in addition to the driver’s seat;*
  - “BE” - a “B” category vehicle towing a trailer of a maximum authorized weight exceeding 750 kg and exceeding the weight of the car without a load; a “B” category vehicle towing a trailer of a maximum authorized weight exceeding 750 kg and the overall authorized weight of both the motor vehicle and the trailer exceeding 3,500 kg;*
  - “CE” - a “C” category motor vehicle towing a trailer of a maximum authorized weight exceeding 750 kg;*

“DE” - a “D” category vehicle towing a trailer of a maximum authorized weight exceeding 750 kg.

9. Within the categories “A”, “B”, “C”, “CE”, “D” and “DE” domestic legislation may introduce the following subcategories of vehicles for which the driving permit may be issued:

“A1” - light motorcycles with a cubic capacity not exceeding 125 cm<sup>3</sup> and a power not exceeding 11 kW;

“B1” – tricycles and quadricycles

“C1” - motor vehicles other than those in category “D”, the maximum authorized weight of which is over 3,500 kg, yet not more than 7,500 kg;

“D1” - motor vehicles used for the carriage of passengers and having more than eight seats in addition to the driver’s seat, but not more than 16 seats in addition to the driver’s seat;

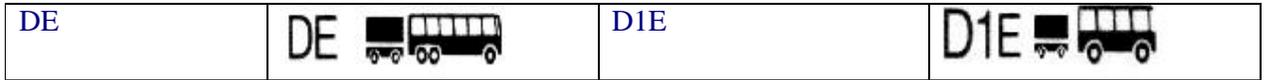
“C1E” - a subcategory “C1” vehicle towing a trailer of a maximum authorized weight exceeding 750 kg, yet not exceeding the weight of the car without a load, and the overall authorized weight of both the motor vehicle and the trailer not exceeding 12,000 kg;

“D1E” - a subcategory “D1” vehicle towing a trailer of a maximum authorized weight exceeding 750 kg, yet not exceeding the weight of the car without a load, and the overall authorized weight of both the motor vehicle and the trailer not exceeding 12,000 kg.

10. Domestic legislation may also introduce categories of vehicles other than those categories and subcategories listed above. The symbols for such categories of vehicle shall be defined in domestic legislation and shall not conflict with any symbols used in the Convention.

11. The categories (subcategories) of vehicles for which the permit is valid shall be represented by the pictograms in the table below.

Category code	Pictogram	Sub-category code	Pictogram
A	A 	A1	A1 
B	B 	B1	
C	C 	C1	C1 
D	D 	D1	D1 
BE	BE 		
CE	CE 	C1E	C1E 



Annex 7

INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT

1. The permit shall be a booklet in format A 6 (148 x 105 mm). The cover shall be grey and the inside pages white.
2. The outside and inside of the front cover shall conform, respectively, to model pages Nos. 1 and 2 below; they shall be printed in the national language, or in at least one of the national languages, of the issuing State. The last two inside pages shall be facing pages conforming to model No. 3 below; they shall be printed in French. The inside pages preceding these two pages shall repeat the first of them in several languages, which must include English, Russian and Spanish.
3. Handwritten or typed entries made on the permit shall be in Latin characters or in English cursive script.
4. Contracting Parties issuing or authorizing the issuance of international driving permits of which the cover is printed in a language other than English, French, Russian or Spanish shall communicate to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the translation into that language of the text of model page No. 3 below.

MODEL PAGE No. 1  
(Outside of front cover)

.....	1/
International Motor Traffic	
INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT	
No. ....	
Convention on Road Traffic of 8 November, 1968	
Valid until .....	2/
Issued by .....	
At .....	
Date .....	
Number of domestic driving permit	
	3/

- 1/ Name of the issuing State and its distinguishing sign as defined in Annex 3.
- 2/ No more than three years after the date of issue or the date of expiry of the domestic driving permit, whichever is earlier.
- 3/ Signature of the authority or association issuing the permit.
- 4/ Seal or stamp of the authority or association issuing the permit.

MODEL PAGE No. 2  
(Inside of front cover)

This permit is not valid for the territory of..... 1/

It is valid for the territories of all the other Contracting Parties *upon the production of the corresponding valid domestic driving permit*. The categories of vehicles for which the permit is valid are stated at the end of the booklet.

2/

This permit shall in no way affect the obligation of the holder to conform to the laws and regulations relating to residence and to the exercise of a profession in each State through which he travels. In particular, it shall cease to be valid in a State if its holder establishes his normal residence there.

- 1/ Enter here the name of the Contracting Party in which the holder is normally resident.  
2/ Space reserved for a list of the States which are Contracting Parties (optional).

MODEL 3

Left hand page

PARTICULARS CONCERNING THE DRIVER

- Surname ..... 1.  
 Other names 1/ ..... 2.  
 Place of birth 2/ ..... 3.  
 Date of birth 3/ ..... 4.  
 Home address ..... 5.

CATEGORIES (and sub-categories) OF VEHICLES FOR WHICH THE PERMIT IS VALID

*The arrangement of the categories and sub-categories shall be as follows:*

Category code	Pictogram	Sub-category code	Pictogram
A	A 	A1	A1 
B	B 	B1	
C	C 	C1	C1 
D	D 	D1	D1 
BE	BE 		
CE	CE 	C1E	C1E 
DE	DE 	D1E	D1E 

RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS OF USE 5/

- 1/ Father's or husband's name may be inserted here.  
 2/ If the place of birth is unknown, leave blank.  
 3/ If date of birth is unknown, state approximate age on date of issue of permit.  
 4/ Seal or stamp of the authority or association issuing the permit.

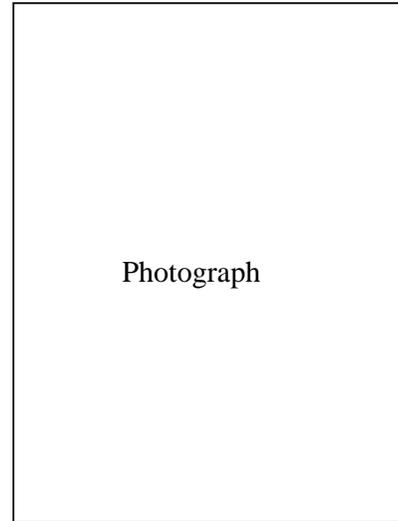
*This seal or stamp shall be affixed to the category or sub-category only if the holder has the right to operate the corresponding vehicles.*

- 5/ For example, "Must wear corrective lenses", "Valid only for driving vehicle No. ...", "Vehicle must be equipped to be driven by a one-legged person".

MODEL 3  
Right-hand page

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....

Stamp	Stamp
A	A1
B	B1
C	C1
D	D1
BE	
CE	C1E
DE	D1E



**DISQUALIFICATIONS:**

The holder is deprived of the right  
to drive in the territory of  
..... 7/ until ..... 8/  
At ..... on .....

The holder is deprived of the right  
to drive in the territory of  
..... 7/ until.....8/

At ..... on .....

.....

.....

(8/)

(8/)

6/ Or thumbprint.  
7/ Name of State.  
8/ Signature and seal or stamp of the authority which has invalidated the permit in its territory. If the spaces provided for disqualifications on this page have already been used, any further disqualifications should be entered overleaf.

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