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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

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

**DRAFT DECISIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY
AT ITS THIRTY-NINTH SESSION**

3. AMENDMENTS TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1968 CONVENTIONS ON
ROAD TRAFFIC AND ON ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS AND THE 1971 EUROPEAN
AGREEMENTS SUPPLEMENTING THEM (continued)

(e) Safety in tunnels

The Working Party agreed to consider the following proposed amendments concerning
safety in tunnels at its special session in November:

1968 Convention on Road Traffic

ARTICLE 11 (Overtaking and movement of traffic in lines)

Paragraph 10

Expand the last sentence as follows:

“If, owing to the narrowness, profile or condition of the carriageway, taken in conjunction with
the density of oncoming traffic, a vehicle which is slow or bulky or is required to observe a speed
limit cannot be easily and safely overtaken, the driver of such vehicle shall slow down and if
necessary pull in to the side as soon as possible, *in particular in passing places that are indicated*

as such, on which the voluntary stopping and parking is prohibited, in order to allow vehicles following him to overtake.”

ARTICLE 25bis (Special regulations for tunnels indicated by special road signs)

Paragraph 1

Delete subparagraph c).

Paragraph 3

Replace the existing text with the following:

“3. Drivers are permitted to stop or park a vehicle only in case of danger/emergency. In doing so, they must, where possible, use the places specially indicated.”

Paragraph 4

Existing paragraph 3 becomes paragraph 4.

1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals

Annex 1 (ROAD SIGNS)

Section E (SPECIAL REGULATION SIGNS)

Chapter II (Descriptions)

Paragraph 9 (Signs notifying the entry to or exit from a tunnel where special rules apply)

Replace the existing text of the second paragraph with the following:

- a) Sign E, 11^a “TUNNEL” must be used, and repeated, to indicate the approach to a tunnel; each sign set up for this purpose shall carry either an inscription in its lower part showing the distance between the sign and the beginning of the tunnel where the special rules apply, or an additional panel H, 1 described in section H of this annex.

The length of the tunnel, which may be accompanied by the name of the tunnel, must be inscribed either in the lower part of the sign, or on an additional panel H, 2 model as described in section H of this annex.

- b) Sign E, 11^b “END OF TUNNEL” must be placed at the point from which the special rules no longer apply.

Paragraph 14

Add a new paragraph 14 with the following wording:

“14 Signs indicating an emergency stopping place and a passing place

- a) The signs E, 17^a and E 17^b “EMERGENCY STOPPING PLACE” (Lay-by) indicate spaces which drivers must, if possible, use for stopping or parking their vehicles in case of danger. The stopping or parking of a vehicle for any other purpose is prohibited. Where such places are equipped with an emergency telephone and/or an extinguisher, the sign shall bear the symbols of signs F, 3 and/or F, 14 either in its lower part or on an additional panel. The symbol “SOS” must appear either on the sign or on the additional panel.
- b) The sign E, 17c “PASSING PLACE”, which may be placed at the side of carriageways on which overtaking is not possible, indicates the places that the drivers of slow-moving vehicles must use in order to allow following vehicles to pass. The stopping or parking of a vehicle for any other purpose is prohibited.”

Section F (INFORMATION, FACILITIES OR SERVICE SIGNS)

Chapter II (Descriptions)

Paragraph 2

Add a new symbol F, 14 as follows:

“F, 14 “EXTINGUISHER” ”

Section G (DIRECTION, POSITION OR INDICATION SIGNS)

Chapter V (Indication signs)

Add a new paragraph 11 with the following wording:

“11 Signs indicating emergency exits

- a) The signs G, 23a and G, 23b, which are placed, in particular, in tunnels and on motorways, indicate to drivers the location of emergency exits.

- b) The signs G, 24^a and G, 24^b, which are placed every 50 m at a height of 1 to 1.5 m on the sidewalls of tunnels and motorways in particular, serve to indicate to drivers the direction to take in order to reach the nearest emergency exit.

- c) The signs G, 23 and G, 24 are green in colour and the symbols, arrows and distance indications are white or of a light colour.”

Annex 3 (REPRODUCTION IN COLOUR OF SIGNS, SYMBOLS AND PANELS
REFERRED TO IN ANNEX 1)

Add the following signs and symbols:

