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

Working Party on Noise (GRB)

**REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON NOISE (GRB)
ON ITS THIRTY-NINTH SESSION**

(24 - 26 February 2004)

ATTENDANCE

1. GRB held its thirty-ninth session from 24 until 26 February 2004 in Geneva, under the chairmanship of Mr. D. Meyer (Germany). Experts from the following countries participated in the work following Rule 1(a) of the Rules of Procedure of WP.29 (TRANS/WP.29/690): Czech Republic; France; Germany; Hungary; Italy; Japan; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Russian Federation; Serbia and Montenegro; Slovakia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom; United States of America. A representative of the European Commission (EC) participated. Experts from the following non-governmental organizations also participated: International Organization for Standardization (ISO); International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (OICA); International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA); European Association of Automobile Suppliers (CLEPA); European Tyre and Rim Technical Organization (ETRTO).

2. The documents without a symbol distributed during the session are listed in the annex to this report.

1. AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING ECE REGULATIONS

1.1. Regulation No. 51 – development
(Noise of M and N categories of vehicles)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2002/4/Rev.1; informal documents Nos. GRB-39-1 and GRB-39-2 of the annex to this report.

3. With regard to the introduction into Regulation No. 51 of an improved vehicle test method for the measurement of the sound level, GRB agreed to consider in depth informal document No. GRB-39-1, proposing a revised text to TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2002/4/Rev.1. The Chairman of the informal group, Mr. Ch. Theis (Germany), confirmed that the group had made good progress at its fifth and sixth informal meetings held in Bonn (Germany) and Zoetermeer (Netherlands) and he introduced informal document No. GRB-39-1.

4. Concerning the sound level limits, GRB agreed to leave paragraph 6.2.2. of the informal document in square brackets and to resume its consideration at the next GRB session in September 2004, awaiting the results of the test measurements programme (see para. 6).

5. GRB agreed on the crucial need to finalize annex 3 of the informal document in order to enable industry to conduct, during the coming spring and summertime, the necessary measurements for the creation of a database on vehicle sound emissions. GRB adopted, amongst others, a modified text on measurement instruments (para. 1.1.). Concerning the test conditions of category N1 vehicles (para. 2.2.1.), GRB decided that vehicles of category N1 with less or equal than 2,500 kg should be measured in unladen conditions and vehicles of category N1 with more than 2,500 kg should be measured in laden conditions. With regard to the issue concerning the representative vehicle in the case of a family type of vehicles, GRB requested the expert from Japan to present a proposal (including a detailed justification) for amendments to the concerned paragraph in order to insert provisions allowing the optional measurement of category N1 vehicles less or equal than 2,500 kg under laden conditions. The expert from Sweden questioned on how to deal with vehicles of category M1 with more than 3,500 kg.

6. Referring to annex 3 of the informal document, the expert from OICA presented the industry's measurement programme for the creation of a vehicle database with regard to the sound emissions. He confirmed that an independent test house would conduct the tests on an appropriate test track. For this purpose, the sound absorption coefficient shall be measured. He stated that the European automotive industry would deliver the test vehicles, mainly new vehicles with production tyres. He added that the measurement would be performed according to the current Regulation No. 51 and according to the adopted annex 3 of the informal document. The tests would be carried out in a transparent manner and all necessary information would be transmitted to GRB and its informal group. He volunteered to present a detailed list of possible test vehicles at the next GRB informal meeting, scheduled to be held in Paris (France) from 15 to 17 March 2004. He also confirmed that the selection of vehicles would cover all today's existing vehicle categories, which would be tested in future according to the "passenger car method" and that heavy duty vehicles would be measured at the manufacturer's test track in the presence of a representative from the independent test house. He announced that the measurement programme was scheduled to start in

April 2004 and to conclude in October 2004. The full database would probably be available by the end of this year or at the beginning of next year. GRB requested the informal group to analyse at its next informal meeting the detailed list of possible test vehicles as well as the test plan.

7. The expert from the United States of America recalled that the intention of the tests was to verify the viability of the new test procedure as well as the comparison of the sound emissions to the existing test procedure, and not to fix new sound emissions limit values.

8. Welcoming the intention to develop a worldwide harmonized Regulation on sound emissions of vehicles, the expert from the U.S. automotive industry confirmed the interest of his organization to participate actively in the tests. The expert from Japan confirmed that the Japanese manufacturer also intended to collect data on the new test method and to keep GRB, as well as its informal group, informed about the results. Concluding its consideration of annex 3, GRB welcomed this collaboration and agreed to resume consideration on this subject awaiting the results of the test measurements programmes.

9. Mr. Ch. Theis pointed out that annex 10 of the informal document has been reserved for the additional sound emission provisions for off-cycle emissions of vehicle categories M1 and N1, and he announced the informal group's intention to prepare an official document on this subject for consideration at the next GRB session in September 2004. For that purpose, the GRB experts were requested to submit as soon as possible their comments to the Secretary of the informal group (hbietenb@ford.com).

10. With regard to the vehicle measurement procedure, the expert from ISO volunteered to transmit to the secretariat updated figures to be inserted in annex 11 of the informal document.

11. Concluding the discussion of the informal document, GRB agreed on the new provisions regarding the improved vehicle test method for the measurement of the sound level, as amended by informal document No. 2. The Chairman suggested to publish the revised document and, for that purpose, requested the secretariat to distribute informal document No. GRB-39-2 with an official symbol (note by the secretariat: see TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2002/4/Rev.2). The informal group was requested to resume its consideration on the basis of that revised document.

12. The Chairman of the informal group, Mr. Ch. Theis (Germany), informed GRB on the intention of the group to have three additional informal meetings in order to finalize the proposal for new 03 series draft amendments to Regulation No. 51. He announced that the next informal group's meeting was scheduled to be held in Paris, from 15-17 March 2004.

1.2. Regulation No. 59 (Replacement silencing systems)

13. The expert from CLEPA recalled the decision of the last GRB session (TRANS/WP.29/GRB/36, paras. 10-11) and informed GRB that the preparation of a new proposal by CLEPA, OICA and the Russian Federation was still in progress. He raised his preference to await the outcome of the considerations on the new test procedure under Regulation No. 51 in order to take these results into account for the new proposal to Regulation No. 59.

14. GRB welcomed that suggestion and agreed to resume consideration on this subject on the basis of that new proposal. Following the discussion, the expert from Germany raised his concern about a further development of Regulation No. 59 and stated that Regulation No. 59 would probably be superfluous after the adoption of the new series of amendments to Regulation No. 51.

2. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS ON NOISE LEVELS

15. No information was presented.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

3.1. 1997 Agreement (Inspections)

16. Following the request by WP.29 (see report TRANS/WP.29/953, paras. 157-160), the secretariat informed GRB that the Administrative Committee (AC.4) of the 1997 Agreement had agreed at its fourth session in November 2003 on the need that an amendment to Rule No. 1 should be prepared by GRB and GRPE experts in order to align its provisions with the European Union Directive 96/96/EC, as amended.

17. The expert from the European Commission volunteered to analyse that need and to prepare a document for consideration at the next GRB session. Welcoming that suggestion, GRB agreed to insert a new agenda item and resume consideration on this subject at its September 2004 session.

3.2. Round Table on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)

18. The Secretary briefed GRB on the outcome of the Round Table on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), organized by WP.29 and held on 18 February 2004 during the sixty-sixth session of the Inland Transport Committee. He announced that all the presentations made during that Round Table on the harmonized research and development of in-vehicle ITS technologies can be consulted and downloaded from the Internet website of the UNECE Transport Division (<http://www.unece.org/trans/welcome.html>).

3.3. Regulation No. 41 (noise emissions for motorcycles)

19. The expert from Germany raised the need to align the existing test procedure for motorcycles with the provisions of the draft proposal for a new test method under Regulation No. 51.

20. The expert from IMMA stated that this subject was already under consideration within his organization and volunteered to prepare a position paper for consideration at the next GRB session. Referring to problems during the enforcement of the Regulation, the expert from the Netherlands raised the need to improve also the provisions regarding the stationary test for motorcycles. The expert from ISO briefed GRB that the revision of the stationary test was still in progress within the ISO working group and confirmed that the new test method would become more effective for motorcycles and passenger cars. The expert from the European Commission expressed his intention

to raise this subject within the European Union at the next session of the working group on noise. The expert from the United States of America welcomed that initiative and pointed out his interest in a new test procedure for motorcycles.

21. GRB agreed to insert this item on its agenda and to resume consideration on this subject at its September 2004 session.

3.4. Development of a global technical regulation (gtr) on motor vehicle sound emissions

22. The expert from Germany questioned if there was a need to develop, under the 1998 Agreement, a global technical regulation (gtr) regarding sound emissions of motor vehicles based on the new test method under Regulation No. 51.

23. The expert from OICA welcomed that proposal and confirmed the interest of the automotive industry to elaborate such a gtr. The expert from the United States of America pointed out that the initiation of the development of such a gtr was premature and expressed his preference to wait for the finalization of the new series of amendments to Regulation No. 51. GRB endorsed that position.

3.5. Development of a stationary test for four-wheelers (Regulation No. 51)

24. GRB had an exchange of views about the need to develop under Regulation No. 51 a revised stationary test for sound emissions and agreed that the current test method was inappropriate. The expert from Japan stated that his Government had introduced limit values for stationary tests and that these limit values were different for front and rear engine vehicles. GRB agreed on the need to update the measurement procedure of the concerned Regulations with regard to the stationary test and its enforcement procedure. The Chairman suggested to resume consideration of this subject at the next GRB session on the basis of a concrete proposal.

3.6. Tribute to Mr. F. Behrens (OICA)

25. The Chairman informed GRB that Mr. F. Behrens (OICA) was departing for his merited retirement. On behalf of GRB, the Chairman thanked him for his considerable contributions and technical expertise on enhancing vehicles noise emissions reduction during all the years of his participation in the Working Party and wished him a long and happy retirement. GRB expressed its appreciation to Mr. Behrens with a long applause.

3.7. Time-schedule for the fortieth GRB session

AGENDA FOR THE NEXT SESSION

26. GRB agreed on the following agenda for the fortieth session, scheduled to be held in Geneva on 23 (from 09.30 h) and 24 (until 17.30 h) September 2004 1/:

1. 1958 Agreement: Amendments to existing ECE Regulations
 - 1.1. Regulation No. 41 – (Noise of motorcycles)
 - 1.2. Regulation No. 51 – (Noise of M and N categories of vehicles)
 - 1.2.1. Development
 - 1.2.2. Stationary test for four-wheelers
 - 1.3. Regulation No. 59 – (Replacement silencing systems)
2. 1997 Agreement: Amendments to Rule No. 1
3. Exchange of information on national and international requirements on noise levels 2/
4. Election of officers
5. Other business

1/ As part of the secretariat's efforts to reduce expenditure, all the official documents as well as the informal documents distributed prior to the session, by mail or placed on the UNECE WP.29 website, will not be available in the conference room for distribution to session participants. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to the meeting. (The WP.29 website address is: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/welcwp29.htm> select GRB and find "Working Documents" as well as "Informal Documents").

2/ Delegations are invited to submit brief written statements on the latest status in national requirements and, if necessary, to supplement this information orally.

Annex

LIST OF INFORMAL DOCUMENTS **GRB-39-...** DISTRIBUTED WITHOUT A SYMBOL
DURING THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF GRB

No. */	Transmitted by	Agenda item	Language	Title	Follow-up */
1.	Germany	1.1.	E	Proposal for draft amendments to Regulation No. 51	(a)
2.	Germany	1.1.	E	Revised proposal for draft amendments to Regulation No. 51	(b)

Notes:

- (a) Consideration completed or to be superseded
 - (b) Continue consideration at the next session with an official symbol
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*/ GRB noted that, following a request by WP.29 (see report TRANS/WP.29/953, para. 9), a new numbering system of the informal documents has been introduced as well as an additional column mentioning its follow-up action.