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agenda item 7.)

PROPOSAL FOR DRAFT AMENDMENT TO REGULATION No. 97
(Vehicle alarm systems)

Transmitted by the expert from Canada

Note: The text reproduced below was prepared by the expert from Canada in order to amend Regulation No. 97 in response to concerns raised by the Canadian insurance industry during the Canadian regulatory development process.

Note: This document is distributed to the Experts on General Safety Provisions only.

A. PROPOSAL

Paragraph 31.7., amend to read:

"31.7. An immobilizer shall be designed and built such that, when installed on a vehicle, according to the manufacturer's instructions, it cannot rapidly (**not less than 5 min**) and without attracting attention be rendered ineffective or destroyed by, e.g. the use of low cost easily concealed tools, equipment or fabrications readily available to the public at large. It shall be difficult and time consuming (**not less than 5 min**) to replace a major component or assembly in order to bypass the immobilizer."

Paragraph 32.4.1., amend to read:

"32.4.1. ...
- a maximum of **1 min** after removing the key of the ignition lock."

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B. JUSTIFICATION

Transport Canada has published a proposal to amend Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Regulation No. 114 to introduce requirements for vehicle immobilizers. The proposal introduces an alternative for the manufacturers to use immobilizers conforming to the North American industry standard CAN/ULC-S338-98 or immobilizers described in the UNECE Regulation No. 97 (14 October 2002). The Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) and the Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC) questioned the use of UNECE Reg.97. They are concerned that some requirements of Regulation No. 97 are unclear or not stringent enough to be comparable with the CAN/ULC-S338-98 requirements.

Specifically, the time requirements in paragraph 31.7. are not quantified and as such are open to interpretation. In order to facilitate unequivocal enforcement and to ensure uniform compliance, the time requirements should be specified to eliminate any ambiguity. With respect to paragraph 32.4.1., there is concern that the maximum of 5 minutes allowed for arming represents a significant window of opportunity and leaves the vehicle too vulnerable. Reducing the maximum time allowed for arming to 1 minute ensures a better protection of the vehicle.

Since Transport Canada's policy supports global harmony, an amendment is proposed to UNECE Regulation No. 97 to address the concerns of the Canadian insurance industry and make vehicles around the world better protected against unauthorized use.
