

GERMAN POSITION REGARDING A REMOTE RADIO SIGNAL ACCESS TO THE VEHICLE ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS

Transmitted by the expert from Germany

1. Proposal in Doc. TRANS/WP.29/GRSG/2003/26

The proposed Vehicle Degradation System (VDS) is an electronic system, which after remote-controlled activation, e.g. by a radio signal, is intended to prevent or restrict a stolen vehicle being driven away by its own engine. Scope of application: Vehicles of classes M1 and N1

The VDS becomes effective after its activation only after a longer stop of the vehicle intended by the driver, i.e.:

- a) when the vehicle stands still and the ignition is switched off and the vehicle' doors locked or
- b) when the vehicle stands still and the ignition is switched off for more than [10] minutes.

The degraded vehicle may thence be operated only at a maximum speed between [10] and [20] km/h. In this degraded state, a visual warning signal consisting of simultaneous flashing of all turn signal lamps shall be provided.

2. Current state of the discussion

At the last meeting of the GRSG in October 2004, the representative of Germany, after having had internal discussions in his country, also with the vehicle manufacturers, expressed serious concerns with regard to any intervention by remote control to the vehicle electronic systems from the outside. With respect to the more and more increasing cross-linkage of the electronic systems and functions in the vehicle, the VDS cannot be regarded isolated. The electronic systems are steered by stored software programs.

If a remote intervention from the outside is made possible on networked vehicle electronics, e.g. the VDS, an abusive attack to the electronic network of the vehicle, e.g. motor control, electronic steering, brake or stability systems, cannot be excluded any more. Malicious or even criminal encroachments, virus attacks etc. are made possible. This can lead to dangerous situations in the traffic with serious consequences for the passengers concerned and for other road users.

Therefore, having had further deepened intensive discussions also under legal aspects, Germany for political reasons now rejects any possibility of a remote access to vehicle electronics, so that Germany retires its document TRANS/WP.29/GRSG/2003/26, specified above.

At the last meeting of the GRSG, the expert from Germany announced to discuss this item again in detail within the Inf. WG, which is chaired by Mr Wrobel (German type approval authority KBA), and to discuss potential alternative solutions for the improvement of the theft protection. However, a meeting of the Inf. WG did not take place so far for lack of time and manpower.

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