

Report on the first meeting of the GRRF-informal group TPMS (Tyre Pressure Monitoring Systems), 28./29. November 2007, Bonn

Venue: Department of Transport, Bonn, Germany

Chairman: Walter Reithmaier, TÜV SÜD Automotive GmbH

Participants: see attendance list

Beginning: 11.00 h

1. Introduction.

The chairman and Mr. Hesse (Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Germany) welcomed the members of the working group. GRRF had decided to establish this working group on its 61st meeting and WP. 29 gave its consent on its 141st meeting. Reports of these meetings are available on the UNECE-website.

The big number of participants showed that there is a great interest in this item. As the group met for the first time, all participants introduced themselves and explained in short terms which results they expect from the discussion in this group.

2. General

All working papers will be numbered and registered in a list which is updated by the the secretary. The numbering will indicate the working group (TPM) and the meeting to which the presentation of the document was related. The secretary or the chairman will also send the working papers to the GRRF-secretary and ask him to publish them on the ECE-GRRF-website as informal TPM-documents. So all interested parties will have access to the informal documents and a distribution to the members of the group is not necessary. The group will report to GRRF about the stage of the discussion and results reached so far. The dates of the following meeting will be fixed during the previous meeting and a confirmation will be sent not later than 2 weeks before the meeting.

3. Agenda/Terms of Reference

An agenda could not be distributed before the meeting but the chairman had prepared a draft in document TPMS-01-08. OICA had sent draft terms of reference (doc. TPM-01-07) which were used as a basis for the discussion.

4. Presentation of documents

The following documents were presented and explained during the meeting. Only the most important comments are reported below.

4.1 TPM-01-01

Principle of ECE-Regulation (Japan)

The principles of this document were explained by Mr. Ishihara. They seem to be acceptable to the group.

4.2 TPM-01-02

Public consultation on outline proposals for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on Advanced Safety Features and Tyres (CLEPA). The document was distributed without detailed discussion.

4.3 TPM-01-03

Time Based Warning (TBW) – For constant Tyre Pressure and CO2 reduction (BMW) Mr. Hein (BMW) introduced this proposal as a short term solution without jeopardizing middle or long term solutions.

Some experts felt that this group should develop a more sophisticated solution from the beginning. The German government, however, is convinced that TBW is a simple solution which could be realized by the vehicle manufacturers without great problems and thus improve the situation on the road very quickly, while giving this group the opportunity to develop a more sophisticated and well balanced cost-effective solution without time pressure. The German government will therefore prepare an informal document for the next GRRF-meeting to introduce TBW as a short term solution.

4.4 TPM-01-04

UNECE R64: RFT & RFWS Tyre Industry Position (ETRTO)

Low pressure warning of run-flat-tyres is of great concern for the tyre industry with regard to product liability (2001/95/EC). Warning thresholds need deliberate discussion.

4.5 TPM-01-05

Notes for UNECE Informal GRRF Ad-Hoc TPMS WG Meeting in Bonn on Nov. 28&29, 2007 (CLEPA). Experts from Schrader Electronics and Siemens VDO presented a first draft for a cost/benefit-analysis of TPMS. This draft is based on data from USA.

4.6 TPM-01-06

Under-inflation measurements, types, standards & rules (ISO)

This document shows that depending on the TPMS technical principles, under-inflations can be detected more or less easily.

4.7 TPM-01-07

Informal document No.GRRF-62-17

The presentation which was presented during the 62nd GRRF session was shown again in order to update all delegates.

4.8 TPM-01-08

UNECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF - Setting up an informal group on TPMS /Terms of Reference OICA)

OICA had drafted terms of reference which were discussed in detail. The group agreed on some amendments to make the text clearer and the operation principles more practicable. The amended version (Terms of reference 1.0, Status 29.11.2007) is available as document TPM-01-09. It was added that international standardisation activities shall be taken into consideration. Several questions were raised which will be matters for discussion at the next meetings. The group confirmed that in principle TPMS - requirements should be defined for all categories of vehicles but it must be sorted out if this can be done in one stage or in several stages. The situation for heavy trucks and trailers is certainly quite different from that for passenger cars.

5. Further Actions / Task force group on tyre pressure data

As defined in the terms of reference the first task will be to identify the potential for improvement of road safety and fuel efficiency. In the opinion of some experts, besides safety, fuel efficiency or environmental protection has the highest priority.

In order to identify the potential for improvement it is necessary to know the present situation on the road, that means figures and data about the number of vehicles which are driven with

under-inflated tyres, the number of under-inflated tyres on each vehicle and the degree of under-inflation.

It was decided to establish a task force for the the collection of such data. Mr. Wim Verhoeve from CLEPA (w.verhoeve@clepa.be) agreed to be chairman of the task force. Members will be experts from OICA, CLEPA, ETRTO and governments, Japan will be included by e-mail contact.

The task force should have its first meeting at the beginning of 2008, in any case before the next meeting of this group in order to be able to present first results for the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting

The next (second) meeting of this group will take place on March 18th to 19th, 2008 in Bonn (Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Germany).

Manfred Hörner
Secretary