

### **UNECE WP 29 Regulation Implementation in Malaysia: An Update**

Malaysia has been a contracting party to the 1958 Agreement (UNECE Vehicle Regulations) and the 1998 Agreement (Global Technical Regulations) since 04 April 2006. Our neighbour country, Thailand, signed the 1958 Agreement in 2006.

Malaysia has a total population of 27.7 millions. 17.6 millions are in the age bracket of 15 and 64 years old, 8.8 million below 14 years old and 1.2 million above 64 years old. As recorded up to the end of the year 2008, Malaysia has 11,227,144 registered drivers. In 2008, 1,135,813 units of new motor vehicle were registered on the road, of which 48% were motorcycles. Most the passenger cars and the motorcycles on Malaysian road are either manufactured or assembled locally. The total number of vehicles registered on the road was approaching 18 million units in 2008 with 47% of them motorcycles. Malaysia has a total of road length of 91,619.60km, comprising 73,854.62km of state road and 17,764.98km of federal road. In 2008, 6527 deaths due to traffic accidents were recorded and 60% were motorcyclists.

The Malaysian government has identified safety on road as one of the national priorities. An ambitious target of 52.4% reduction from 4.2 fatalities per 10,000 registered vehicles in 2005 to 2 in 2010 has been set. Other indices and targets are also incorporated as part of the Malaysian Road Safety Strategic Planning 2006-2010. They are 10 deaths per 100,000 population and 10 deaths per billion vehicle-kilometre-travelled, compared to the present rate of 23 and 10 deaths, respectively. In order to achieve such targets, 15 different sectors have been identified and Vehicle Safety Standard and Road Safety Research are amongst them. The incorporation of UNECE Regulations and participation of Malaysian experts have been well received, in support of the vehicle and road safety development. This has also created positive effects to related industries by positioning them in a better footing and providing a competitive edge in facing global competitions.

After a certain level of exposure, Malaysia organized the first National Steering Committee Meeting on 09 October 2007. The committee was chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Transport Malaysia. Malaysia has incorporated a total of 11 UNECE Regulations into the Malaysian Motor Vehicle Construction and Use Rules on 19 November 2007. They are UNECE R30, R36, R48, R52, R54, R66, R80, R98, R99, R108 and R109. Another 35 UNECE Regulations are being proposed to be incorporated into the upcoming revision of Malaysian Regulations, which has been scheduled to be gazetted soon. The formation of six

national expert working groups has been recently approved in May 2009 by the Ministry of Transport Malaysia, and lead agencies has been identified and are being appointed officially. They can be considered as national mirror committees to the six working parties under the WP29. Roadmaps of specific regulation implementations will be formulated and monitored by the respective working groups and development of related national technical service will be looked into. These groups will also serve as technical reference resources to the national vehicle type approval committee.

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