Proposal for Supplement 12 to the 04 Series, Supplement 5 to the 05 Series and Supplement 3 to the 06 Series of Regulation No. 48

Submitted by the expert from the International Automotive Lighting and Light Signalling Expert Group (GTB)*

The text reproduced below was prepared by the expert from the GTB to amend the requirements for installation of front-position lamps. The modifications to the existing text of the Regulation are shown in "track changes" mode.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2010–2014 (ECE/TRANS/208, para. 106, ECE/TRANS/2010/8, programme activity 02.4), the World Forum will develop, harmonize and update Regulations in order to enhance the performance of vehicles. The present document is submitted in conformity with that mandate.
I. Proposal

Paragraph 6.9.4.2., amend to read:

"6.9.4.2. In height: above the ground, not less than 350 mm nor more than 1,500 mm (2,100 mm for O₁ and O₂ categories of vehicles, or if for any other categories of vehicles the shape of the bodywork makes it impossible to keep within 1,500 mm)."

II. Justification

1. UN Regulation No. 48 specifies that with the exception of the front position lamp all front signalling devices (UN Regulation No. 3 – front and side retro-reflectors and UN Regulation No.91 – side marker lamps) shall be mounted at a minimum height above the ground of 250 mm.

2. For historical reasons, when most front position lamps (UN Regulation No. 7) were traditionally mounted with the headlamp, they were required to be mounted at a minimum height above the ground of 350 mm. However, due to regulatory pressures associated with pedestrian protection and with reduction of emissions, it is beneficial to reciprocally incorporate or group the position lamp with the retro-reflectors or the side-marker lamps at a lower mounting height where more space is available.

3. The minimum mounting height of 250 mm is acceptable for the side marker and retro-reflectors, but lowering of the front position lamp would be detrimental for traffic safety. Further, based on present requirements of UN Regulation No. 48, position lamps are no longer switched ON alone except that for the signalisation of parked vehicles.