

GRE INFORMAL WG – "HORIZONTAL REFERENCE DOCUMENT"

Status of Work

The GRE Informal Group "HRD" was launched in October 2010 but has not been able to make progress due to a number of factors including a lack of active support of the GRE experts. Apart from the willingness of three experts from within the French group, the request for volunteers from amongst the GRE experts has only resulted in an input from the Russian Federation and first drafts of a proposal from Canada. From this response it can be concluded that, currently, there is really very little interest to develop the Horizontal Reference Document.

There is no doubt that there is a potential advantage in moving all common requirements into one place. However, following the recent discussions at WP29 concerning the new rules applying to corrigenda and the resources of the secretariat, it is likely that the task will be greater and more problematic than GRE is currently capable of managing. There is a major editorial challenge because many of the "common requirements" are not exactly the same between the various regulations and it will be necessary to modify the texts with great care. There will be a danger that amendments to the provisions could introduce errors or could affect individual interpretations upon which type approvals are currently granted.

It is not sensible to undertake this major task without adequate support from GRE experts. In addition to the representatives of OICA and CLEPA, who voiced their opposition during the initial debate in GRE, the representative of the Netherlands reported doubts over the wisdom of removing provisions from the individual regulations. Additionally, GTB experts have pointed out that they do not currently have the time available to carry out the work and this is a common problem also affecting the chairman and secretary of the informal group. The task would involve the amendment of the majority of the lighting and light-signalling regulations with the corresponding workload being transferred to GRE and ultimately to WP29.

It is proposed to suspend the work of this informal group until the current discussions underway at WP29, following the invitation of the European Commission for the contracting parties to cooperate to develop a new approach to the development of the Regulations, reach a conclusion. Ultimately if the conclusion is that the Regulations should be simplified, and perhaps combined, it is likely that the requirement for a Horizontal Reference Document will become clear. Until this clarity is achieved the pragmatic approach is to suspend the informal group but to retain the topic on the GRE work programme.
