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World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations**Working Party on Passive Safety****Fifty-sixth session**

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Regulation No. 17 (Strength of seats)**Proposal for Supplement 3 to the 08 series of amendments to
Regulation No. 17 (Strength of seats)****Submitted by the expert from Germany***

This proposal was prepared by the expert from Germany to extend the prohibition of installation of side-facing seats to all categories of commercial vehicles (N). It is based on a document without symbol (GRSP-55-19) distributed during the fifty-fifth session of the Working Party on Passive Safety (GRSP) (see ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSP/55, para. 19). The modifications to the text of the UN Regulation are marked in bold for new characters.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2012–2016 (ECE/TRANS/224, para. 94 and ECE/TRANS/2012/12, 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 5.1.1., amend to read:

"5.1.1. The installation of side-facing seats shall be prohibited in vehicles of categories M₁, N, M₂ (of class II, III and B) and M₃ of a technically permissible laden mass not exceeding 10 tonnes (of class II, III and B)."

II. Justification

1. UN Regulation No. 17 prohibits side-facing seats in passenger vehicles of category M₁ and light lorries or vans of category N₁. Heavier vehicles of the categories N₂ and N₃ are not mentioned in paragraph 5.1.1., because these vehicles are designed and constructed for the carriage of goods and not for the carriage of passengers.

2. In the new Annex XI of European Union (EU) Directive 2007/46/EC, a minor amendment was introduced in the footnote G, to read: "In case of multi-stage approval, requirements according to the category of the base/incomplete vehicle (e.g. the chassis which was used to build the special purpose vehicle) may also be used". The reference to the requirements of base/incomplete vehicles of the corresponding vehicle category N (based on maximum mass) was deleted. Therefore, a special purpose vehicle, for example a M₁ motor-caravan having < 3.5 tonnes and based on incomplete N₂ vehicle, could install side-facing seats. This may be allowed because EU Directive 74/408/EC and UN Regulation No. 17 do not prohibit side-facing seats for vehicles of the categories N₂ and N₃.

3. To rationalize this legislative gap and to prevent the installation of side-facing seats in in the above-mentioned vehicle types, the above amendment is proposed to paragraph 5.1.1.
