

**REQUEST TO EXTEND THE MANDATE OF THE INFORMAL
GROUP ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION FOR HARMONIZATION OF VEHICLE
REGULATIONS UNDER THE 1958 AGREEMENT**

This is a request to World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) to extend the mandate of the informal group on the future direction for harmonization of vehicle regulations under the 1958 Agreement (IWVTA Informal Group) by 15 months, i.e., until June, 2017 to complete the task.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. WP.29 agreed to set up the informal group to develop a procedure for the International Whole Vehicle Type Approval in the framework of the 1958 Agreement at its 150th session in March, 2010 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1083, para. 62).
2. WP.29 endorsed the road map and the inventory for the review of the 1958 Agreement at its 155th session in November, 2011 (see WP.29-155-27).
3. The Two subgroups started drafting the revision to the 1958 Agreement (chaired by the European Commission) and the text of UN Regulation No. 0 (chaired by Japan) in June, 2012.
4. The drafting subgroup for the review of the 1958 Agreement submitted consolidated drafting proposal for the revised 1958 Agreement to WP.29 at its 159th session in March, 2013 (see WP.29-159-19).
5. The drafting subgroup for the text of UN Regulation No. 0 submitted the 1st draft to WP.29 at its 162th session in March, 2014 (see WP.29-162-11).
6. The drafting subgroup for the review of the 1958 Agreement submitted formal proposal for the revised 1958 Agreement to WP.29 at its 163th session in June, 2014 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2014/53).
7. The drafting subgroup for the review of the 1958 Agreement submitted formal proposal for the revised 1958 Agreement to WP.29 at its 165th session in March, 2015 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2015/40).
8. The drafting subgroup for the text of UN Regulation No. 0 submitted the 1st formal proposal to WP.29 at its 166th session in June, 2015 (see ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2015/68).

II. TIMELINE

December, 2015 to June, 2016: Pre-testing of UN Regulation No. 0

November, 2016: Submission of final proposal for the text of UN Regulation No. 0

November, 2016: Submission of proposal to set up a permanent informal group administering IWVTA

November, 2016: Submission of proposal for updated “General Guidelines for UN regulatory procedures and transitional provisions in UN Regulations” (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1044/rev.2).

III. TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The objective of the informal group is to assist the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) in considering actions on the future direction for the harmonization of vehicle regulations under the 1958 Agreement.
This future direction should aim at fostering the participation of more countries and regional economic integration organizations in the activities of the World Forum and to increase the number of Contracting Parties to the Agreement, by improving its functioning and reliability, and thus ensuring that it remains the key international framework for the harmonization of technical regulations in the automotive sector.
2. To fulfil this objective the informal group shall, as a first step, make an inventory of the elements which it considers should be addressed in a review of the 1958 Agreement, taking into account contributions by Contracting Parties and nongovernmental organizations, and establish a roadmap for addressing these elements as a recommendation to WP.29.
3. In doing so, the informal group shall give particular attention to the procedures for developing, amending and adopting technical regulations for motor vehicles, and their implementation by Contracting Parties, and also to the conditions for granting type approvals and their mutual recognition. Other elements to be included for consideration are the methods for conformity assessment and certification procedures, including the responsibilities and competence of involved parties and aspects related to enforcement, such as ensuring conformity of production, market surveillance, safeguard measures and dispute settlement procedures.

4. The informal group shall submit the proposals to the World Forum for consideration, the latest, at its 170th session in November 2016.
5. The target completion date for the work of the informal group shall be the 172th session of the World Forum in June 2017.
6. This target completion date will be reviewed in November 2016, taking into account the assessment by the World Forum of the proposals submitted by the informal group for consideration.
7. Final decisions on proposals will be adopted by the World Forum and the Contracting Parties to the 1958 Agreement.

IV. RULES OF PROCEDURE

1. The informal group is a sub group of the World Forum and is open to all participants of WP.29.
2. A Chair and a Secretary will manage the informal group.
3. The official language of the informal group will be English.
4. All documents and/or proposals must be submitted to the Secretary of the informal group in a suitable electronic format in advance of the meetings. The informal group may refuse to discuss any item or proposal which has not been circulated 10 working days in advance of the scheduled meeting.
5. An agenda and related documents will be circulated to all members of the informal group in advance of all scheduled meetings.
6. Proposals will be developed by consensus. When consensus cannot be reached, the Chair of the informal group shall present the different points of view to the World Forum. The Chair may seek guidance from WP.29 as appropriate.
7. The progress of the informal group will be routinely reported to the World Forum, wherever possible as an informal document and presented by the Chair or his/her representative.
8. All working documents should be distributed in digital format. Meeting documents should be open to public on the website of the World Forum.