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INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
(Thirty-sixth session, 3-6 April 2001,
agenda item 3 (b))

**REVISION OF THE CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTIONS ON ROAD TRAFFIC (R.E.1)
AND ON ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS (R.E.2)**

Assistance to victims of road accidents

Transmitted by the small group

Introduction

1. At its thirty-fifth session, the Working Party requested the small group (France, Israel, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR) under the chairmanship of France) to prepare a new draft of the proposal on assistance to victims of road accidents for its next session without the use of square brackets and bold text, and taking into account the comments made at its thirty-fifth session (TRANS/WP.1/74, para. 45). The Working Party agreed that it would adopt the final text at that time.

2. The Working Party also decided to consider at its thirty-sixth session what should be done with the original drafts of proposals after the final text has been shortened for adoption in R.E.1. It was suggested that in order to safeguard the work and information which might be valuable at a later date, the complete proposals should either become an annex to R.E.1 or be saved in a separate document.

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A. Early alert

- (a) Wherever necessary install call devices connected to established emergency systems and encourage at all places the use of all other means of calling for emergency assistance.
- (b) Introduce an internationally recognized toll-free telephone number for emergency assistance, and pending its introduction, publicize the national emergency number by appropriate means, including on signs at border crossings.
- (c) Provide information about the proper use of this emergency number, and publicize the kind of information to transmit to emergency units particularly the location and circumstances of the accident (including, for example, people trapped in the vehicle, vehicles on fire, the number of people injured and the gravity of the injuries, number of vehicles involved, etc.).

B. Secure the area of the accident

- (a) Teach road users (for example, during training for a driving licence) how to secure and signal the area of an accident (i.e. triangle, lights, road flares) in a safe way and to avoid and prevent further complications, pending the arrival of emergency units.

C. First aid

- (a) Instruct road users (inter alia as part of the preparation for driving tests, during general education or in special courses) in practical methods of providing emergency assistance for the maintenance of a victim's vital functions pending the arrival of professional assistance.
- (b) Introduce training and ensure periodical refreshment of first-aid knowledge and practical skills for professional drivers.
- (c) Require the availability of a first-aid kit for vehicles of category B, C and D, as required by recommendation 2.7 of R.E.1.
- (d) Include first-aid information in documents which road users usually consult such as map books and training materials for driving tests.
- (e) Encourage mandatory inclusion of first aid knowledge and practical skills for assisting victims of road accidents in driving licence delivery (either as part of driving tests or holding a first aid certificate delivered by a recognised organization).

D. Emergency medical assistance

- (a) Organize the coordination of the dispatch of emergency response resources, particularly the transportation of the injured to the nearest adequate health facilities, according to the nature and severity of the injuries.
 - (b) Standardize emergency response protocols and ensure that they permit appropriate management of emergency medical assistance to road traffic victims both during conveyance from the accident scene to the health facilities and within such facilities.
 - (c) Site emergency response units so that they can be on the scene of an accident as soon as possible after being called out.
 - (d) Properly equip fixed and mobile emergency resources with a sufficient number of qualified and well-trained personnel. Encourage the organization and equipment of volunteer health professionals who could be called rapidly to accident sites in order to give immediate assistance to victims.
 - (e) Encourage the dissemination and availability of good practices and instrumentation for life saving measures, and a standard triage procedure for emergency response unit personnel.
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