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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety  
(Thirty-seventh session, 10-14 September 2001,  
agenda item 4 (b) (ii))

**AMENDMENTS TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1968 CONVENTIONS ON  
ROAD TRAFFIC AND ON ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS AND THE 1971  
EUROPEAN AGREEMENTS SUPPLEMENTING THEM**

Definitions of mopeds and motorcycles

Transmitted by the small group

At its thirty-fifth session, the Working Party considered a proposal to amend the European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic regarding definitions of mopeds and motorized quadricycles (TRANS/WP.1/2000/41), and requested the small group (Belgium, Italy and IMMA, under the chairmanship of Belgium) to prepare a more detailed and elaborated proposal for its next session, including consideration of the consequences that such a change might entail. Discussion of this subject was delayed until the thirty-seventh session.

The proposal of the small group appears below.

**Proposed text for up-dating the vehicle category definitions in the European Agreement Supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic (1968)**

1. Definitions from the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic, as amended by the European Agreement Supplementing it.

(m) "Moped" means any two-wheeled or three-wheeled vehicle which is fitted with an internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cc and a maximum design speed not exceeding 50 km (30 miles) per hour. Contracting Parties are free, however, not to regard as mopeds, under their domestic legislation, vehicles which do not have the characteristics of a cycle with respect to their use, in particular the characteristic that they can be propelled by pedals, or whose maximum design speed, whose mass, or certain of whose engine characteristics exceed certain limits. Nothing in this definition shall be construed as preventing Contracting Parties from treating mopeds exactly as cycles in applying the provisions of their domestic legislation regarding road traffic;

(n) "Motor cycle" means any two-wheeled vehicle, with or without a side-car, which is equipped with a propelling engine. Three-wheeled vehicles whose unladen mass does not exceed 400 kg shall be treated as motorcycles. ~~Contracting Parties may also treat as motor cycles in their domestic legislation three-wheeled vehicles whose unladen mass does not exceed 400 kg.~~ The term "motor cycle" does not include mopeds, although Contracting Parties may, provided they make a declaration to this effect in conformity with Article 54, paragraph 2, of this Convention, treat mopeds as motor cycles for the purposes of the Convention;

*[Note: the amendment is from the European Agreement Supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic (1968) Amendment 1, Paragraph 3.]*

2. New Vehicle Category Definitions in amended Directive 92/61/EC

- mopeds, i.e. two-wheel vehicles (category L1e) or three-wheel vehicles (category L2e) with a maximum design speed of not more than 45 km/h and characterised by:
  - in the case of the two-wheel type, an engine whose:
    - cylinder capacity does not exceed 50 cm<sup>3</sup> in the case of the internal combustion type, or
    - maximum continuous rated power is no more than 4 kW in the case of an electric motor.
  - in the case of the three-wheel type, an engine whose:
    - cylinder capacity does not exceed 50 cm<sup>3</sup> if of the spark (positive) ignition type, or
    - maximum net power output does not exceed 4kW in the case of other internal combustion engines, or
    - maximum continuous rated power does not exceed 4 kW in the case of an electric motor.
- motorcycles, i.e. two-wheel vehicles without a sidecar (category L3e) or with a sidecar (category L4e), fitted with an engine having a cylinder capacity of more than 50 cm<sup>3</sup> if of the internal combustion type, and/or having a maximum design speed of more than 45 km/h,
- motor tricycles, i.e. vehicles with three symmetrically arranged wheels (category L5e) fitted with an engine having a cylinder capacity of more than 50 cm<sup>3</sup> if of the internal combustion type and/or a maximum design speed of more than 45 km/h.

- quadricycles, i.e. motor vehicles with four wheels having the following characteristics:
  - (a) light quadricycles whose unladen mass is not more than 350 kg category L6e), not including the mass of the batteries in case of electric vehicles, whose maximum design speed is not more than 45 km/h and
    - whose engine cylinder capacity does not exceed 50 cm<sup>3</sup> for spark (positive) ignition engines, or
    - whose maximum net power output does not exceed 4kW in the case of other internal combustion engines, or
    - whose maximum continuous rated power does not exceed 4 kW in the case of an electric motor.
  - (b) quadricycles, other than those referred to in (a), whose unladen mass is not more than 400 kg (category L7e) (550 kg for vehicles intended for carrying goods), not including the mass of batteries in the case of electric vehicles, and whose maximum net engine power does not exceed 15 kW.

3. Proposed revised categories for the European Agreement Supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic

3.1 Editorial note

The Convention/European Agreement text is upright, the text from the European Directive is *in italics*. Additional proposals are in square brackets.

3.2 The definition of a moped

Amend sub-paragraph (m) to read:

"(m) "Moped" means any two-wheeled or three-wheeled vehicle ~~which is fitted with an internal combustion engine having a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cc and a maximum design speed not exceeding 50 km (30 miles) per hour.~~ *with a maximum design speed of not more than 45 km/h and characterised by:*

- *in the case of the two-wheel type, an engine whose cylinder capacity does not exceed 50 cm<sup>3</sup> in the case of the internal combustion type, or maximum continuous rated power is no more than 4 kW in the case of an electric motor.*
- *in the case of the three-wheel type, an engine whose cylinder capacity does not exceed 50 cm<sup>3</sup> if of the spark (positive) ignition type, or maximum net power output does not exceed 4kW in the case of other internal combustion engines, or maximum continuous rated power does not exceed 4 kW in the case of an electric motor.*

Contracting Parties are free, however, not to regard as mopeds, under their domestic legislation, vehicles which do not have the characteristics of a cycle with respect to their use, in particular the characteristic that they can be propelled by pedals, or whose maximum design speed, whose mass, or certain of whose engine characteristics exceed certain limits. Nothing in this definition shall be construed as preventing Contracting Parties from treating mopeds exactly as cycles in applying the provisions of their domestic legislation regarding road traffic;"

### 3.3 The definition of a motorcycle

Amend sub-paragraph (n) to read:

"(n) "Motor cycle" means any two-wheeled vehicle, with or without a side-car, ~~which is equipped with a propelling engine. Three wheeled vehicles whose unladen mass does not exceed 400 kg shall be treated as motorcycles.~~ with a maximum design speed of more than 45 km/h and/or an engine having a cylinder capacity of more than 50 cm<sup>3</sup> if of the internal combustion type, [ and/or a maximum continuous rated power of more than 4 kW in the case of an electric motor.]

The term "motor cycle" does not include mopeds, although Contracting Parties may, provided they make a declaration to this effect in conformity with Article 54, paragraph 2, of this Convention, treat mopeds as motor cycles for the purposes of the Convention;"

### 3.4 The definition of a tricycle

Add a new definition (ab):

"(ab) "motor tricycle" means a vehicle with three symmetrically arranged wheels fitted with an engine having a maximum design speed of more than 45 km/h and/or a cylinder capacity of more than 50 cm<sup>3</sup> if of the internal combustion type [and/ or a maximum continuous rated power of more than 4 kW in the case of an electric motor.]"

### 3.5 The definition of a light quadricycle

Add a new definition (ac):

"(ac) "light quadricycle" means a vehicle with four wheels whose unladen mass is not more than 350 kg, not including the mass of the batteries in case of electric vehicles, whose maximum design speed is not more than 45 km/h and

- whose engine cylinder capacity does not exceed 50 cm<sup>3</sup> for spark (positive) ignition engines, or
- whose maximum net power output does not exceed 4kW in the case of other internal combustion engines, or
- whose maximum continuous rated power does not exceed 4 kW in the case of an electric motor."

### 3.6 The definition of a quadricycle

Add a new definition (ad):

"(ad) "quadricycle" means a vehicle with four wheels whose unladen mass is not more than 400 kg (550 kg for vehicles intended for carrying goods), not including the mass of batteries in the case of electric vehicles, and whose maximum net engine power does not exceed 15 kW."

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