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Ukraine joins the UNECE Agreement on periodical inspections of vehicles

On 17 January 2007, Ukraine has ratified the 1997 Agreement concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions for Periodical Technical Inspections of Wheeled Vehicles and the Reciprocal Recognition of Such Inspections, of 13 November 1997. In accordance with its provisions, the Agreement will enter into force for Ukraine on 18 March 2007.

The Ukraine ratification brings to 10 the total number of UNECE Member States that are Parties to the 1997 Agreement. The other Contracting Parties are: Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Netherlands, Romania and Russian Federation. The European Community and its Member States are currently considering their accession to this Agreement.

The 1997 Agreement aims at harmonizing and improving the environmental and safety performance of vehicles in use by means of uniform rules on their periodical inspections. The Agreement provides for an International Technical Inspection Certificate, which confirms that a vehicle has been inspected in accordance with the technical conditions set up in the Agreement. In addition, the Agreement provides, under certain conditions, for the reciprocal recognition by a given Contracting Party of the periodical inspections conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement in another Contracting Party.

Uniform prescriptions for periodical inspections are developed in the framework of the UNECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) in the form of Rules that are annexed to the Agreement. There is currently one Rule annexed to the 1997 Agreement, which addresses the conditions for inspections concerning the environmental performance of passenger vehicles carrying more than 8 passengers and of good vehicles, both with maximum mass exceeding 3.5 tonnes. It is foreseen that in future, inspections of other categories of vehicles will also be addressed.

Rule No. 1 has recently been amended, notably in order to harmonize and make more stringent the minimum requirements for inspections of vehicles in use with regard to their environmental nuisances, including pollutant and noise emissions.

WP.29 is currently developing a second rule addressing the technical conditions for inspections of safety aspects of heavy-duty vehicles in use.

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