

Progress on amending global technical regulation No. 4
(Heavy-duty vehicle exhaust-emissions and certification procedure)

On its one-hundred-and-forty-second session, Geneva, 26-29 June 2007 WP.29 agreed on the need to amend gtr No. 4. This amendment was introduced with the aim of removing the options contained in document ECE/TRANS/180/Add.4 established as gtr No.4 in the Global Registry on 15 November 2006. The options refer to:

- (1) Engine power/work
- (2) Reference fuel
- (3) Hot soak period
- (4) Weighting factors for hot and cold phases
- (5) Particulate sampling filter size and material

After re-establishment of the GRPE informal group on WHDC, the informal group met five times. In the first phase, the roadmap was developed that anticipates adoption of the amended gtr at the November 2009 WP.29 meeting. In the second phase, technical test programs to support the final resolution on removal of the options were designed and the necessary funds rose. The test programs on options 2 and 5 are close to start, and their results will be discussed at the October 2008 WHDC meeting.

It is foreseen that removal of options 1, 2 and 5 will be successful within the current mandate and be ready for WP.29 adoption in November 2009.

On options 3 and 4, USA is concerned about backsliding on severity of US 2010 heavy duty emissions regulations, already in place, and therefore not yet ready for a compromise. USA proposed a validation test program with US 2010 and/or Euro VI engine technologies that appear unlikely to be completed in time for WP.29 adoption in November 2009 due to timing and funding considerations. The working group will discuss possible solutions to the problem at the October 2008 WHDC meeting. Nevertheless, it appears unlikely at this time that consensus will be reached on these options.

The informal group is therefore asking advice from AC.3 on the further procedure. For the time being, the likely solution is to solve options 1, 2 and 5 within the given mandate and to retain solving options 3 and 4 for the mid-term future. With this solution, USA would be given more time for correlating their regional emissions regulation against the WHDC procedure.

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