

Definitions of buses

Comments to the German proposal
(ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSG/2008/2)

Transmitted by the expert from Hungary

1. The German proposal contains certain modifications to the definitions specified in Regulation No.107.
2. GRSG (as well as WP.29) is close to accept the new Horizontal Regulation (Vehicle categories, definitions and country codes). This draft regulation also defines the bus classes, categories. The agreed goal of this regulation is to specify on a general level the vehicle (including buses) categories, classes. So in the individual – specific – regulations these definitions shall be used.
3. It was agreed that the definitions of Regulation No. 107 would be those of the Horizontal regulation. The German proposal does not follow this way.
4. Every definition can be formulated on different ways. There is no "best definition." If GRSG thinks, new definitions may be adopted for bus classes and categories. But in this case they should appear first in the Horizontal regulation and only after in Regulation No. 107.

Now GRSG has the opportunity to discuss this subject – because the Horizontal regulation is on its agenda – but not related to Regulation No.107.

If discussing the bus categories, classes and definitions, GRSG should consider two more issues:

- A. There are double, parallel definitions for small buses, based on two different limit values:
 - Maximum mass is less than 5 tonnes (M_2)
 - Passenger capacity is less than 22 (?)

The 22 passengers as limit value do not have any technical meaning. Earlier it was 16 (during the discussion 25 was also proposed)

In the practice, in most cases the two definitions cover each other

small buses (M_2) < 22 passengers and < 5 tonnes

large buses (M_3) > 22 passengers and > 5 tonnes

but in some cases the situation is not clear.

The solution would be: delete the limit value 22 of passenger capacity and replace it by M2. It means that in the Horizontal regulation:

should be: Category M₃

should be: Category M₂

Also in Regulation No.107 should be made a correction. If GRSG takes this decision, Hungary undertakes to prepare a document for the next session, containing all these necessary replacements

B. In the Horizontal regulation

4.2.3. a sub sentence should be added to the paragraph:

“whether they are single or double deck, rigid or articulated vehicles.”

It is true that these categories (articulated, double deck) may be found among the definitions of R.107. But the scopes of other regulations which shall be applied to buses as well, refer to M2 and/or M3 categories only. Therefore it shall be clear in the Horizontal regulation that all buses regulated in ECE regulations are covered by these categories.
