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Economic Commission for Europe**Inland Transport Committee****World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations****Working Party on General Safety Provisions****116th session**

Geneva, 1–5 April 2019

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

UN Regulation No. 55 (Mechanical couplings)**Proposal for Supplement 8 to the 01 series of amendments to
UN Regulation No. 55 (Mechanical couplings)****Submitted by the expert from the European Commission ***

The text reproduced below was prepared by the expert from the European Commission (EC) to update the provisions on removable mechanical couplings fitted to motor vehicles, in particular, for the need to provide clear information to the driver. It is based on informal document GRSG-115-34, presented at the 115th session of the Working Party on General Safety Provisions (GRSG) (see report ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSG/94, para. 30). The modifications to the current text of UN Regulation No. 43 are marked in bold characters.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2018–2019 (ECE/TRANS/274, para. 123 and ECE/TRANS/2018/21/Add.1, Cluster 3.1), the World Forum will develop, harmonize and update UN regulations to enhance the performance of vehicles. The present document is submitted in conformity with that mandate.

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I. Proposal

Annex 7, paragraph 1.1.4., amend to read:

"1.1.4. When the trailer in the vehicle. **In such a case, the motor-vehicle's user instructions (e.g. owner's manual, vehicle handbook) shall clearly specify that the removable or repositionable mechanical coupling device shall always be removed or repositioned when it is not in use.**

If the installed ..."

II. Justification

1. Since the introduction of a footnote in item "Regulation Number 55" of annex IV of General Safety Regulation (EC) No 661/2009, vehicle approvals are no longer in compliance with the General Safety Regulation if non-removable or non-repositionable ones are installed on a vehicle and when they obscure (partially) lighting components or the rear registration plate space (reference: European Union (EU) Regulation No. 523/2012 of 20 June 2012).

2. UN Regulation No. 55 still permit that the removable coupling can be locked with a key, which does not allow the safe removal or repositioning of mechanical couplings when not in use.

3. To improve user awareness, clear information should be included in the instruction manual.

