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Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
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AMENDMENTS TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1968 CONVENTIONS ON ROAD
TRAFFIC AND ON ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS AND THE 1971 EUROPEAN AGREEMENTS
SUPPLEMENTING THEM

Driving permits

Transmitted by the Chairman of the small group on driving permits

The second meeting of the group of experts on driving permits was held in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation) on 30 and 31 August 2001. The following members participated: Mr. A. Yakimov (Russian Federation), Chairman; Mr. A. Bohler (Luxembourg); Mr. Z. Uzant (Israel); Mr. C. Lozano (Spain); Mr. N. Rogers (IMMA); Mr. J.M. Rodakis (ISO). The UNECE secretariat was represented by Mr. C. Smith.

At the meeting the question of the recognition and use of domestic driving permits (DDPs) in UNECE member States was discussed on the basis of the analysis of international as well as national legal norms regulating the corresponding provisions, as well as the answers submitted in response to the Questionnaire on Recognition and Use of IDPs and DDPs (documents TRANS/WP.1/2001/5 and Add.1).

In accordance with a decision taken at the 36th session of WP.1 (TRANS/WP.1/76), the secretariat issued additional information regarding No. 9 of the Questionnaire on Recognition and Use of IDPs and DDPs, published in document TRANS/WP.1/2001/29. The answers submitted by Norway, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany and Georgia contain information related to the recognition and limitation of validity periods of DDPs and IDPs issued in conformity with Article 41 paragraph 2 of the Vienna Convention.

The group of experts took the following decisions:

1. To phrase Article 41 paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention as follows:

“(a) any domestic driving permit conforming to prescriptions of Annex 6 to the present Convention;”.

2. To delete Article 41 paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention and change (c) to (b).

3. To add the following paragraph to Article 41 paragraph 2 of the Convention:

“The validity period of a DDP or IDP issued by a Contracting Party may be limited in the territory of another Contracting Party only by the validity period of the permit defined by the Party that issued it, or by a change in the residency or citizenship status of the holder in compliance with the national legislation of the Contracting Party.”

4. To develop a new version of Annex 6 to the Convention bearing in mind the following:

4.1. There is no need to repeat the words “Permis de conduire” in French. Instead, it would be reasonable to develop a symbol to identify a document as a driving permit. As a possible option the UN symbol might be slightly modified to resemble a steering wheel, this in addition to the distinctive symbol of the state that issued the permit. These symbols are to be placed on the front side of the card.

4.2 All the particulars that are to be entered on the permit must be listed in the order defined by the EU Directive 96/47/EC:

1. Surname of the holder;
2. First name and other names of the holder (patronymics);
3. Date of birth;
4. (a) date of issue of the permit;
(b) date of expiry of the permit;
(c) the name or stamp of the issuing authority;
5. Number of the permit;
6. Photograph of the holder;
7. Signature of the holder;
9. (Sub)categories of vehicle(s) the holder is entitled to drive;
10. Date of first issue for each (sub)category (this date must be repeated on the new permit in the event of subsequent replacement or exchange);
11. Date of expiry for each (sub)category.

12. Additional information/ restriction(s), in code form, next to the relevant (sub)category (there is a possibility of using special pictograms that are currently being developed by ISO).

Note: Optional particulars are added at the discretion of national legislation and may only contain the following information:

- under No 3: Place of birth (in addition to date of birth);
- under No 4 (d) A different number from the one under heading 5, for administrative purposes;
- under No 8: Permanent place of residence;
- under No 13: A space reserved for the possible entry of information essential for administering the permit in case of a change in normal place of residence;
- under No 14: A space reserved for the possible entry of information essential for administering the permit or related to road safety.

The particulars under numbers 1 – 7 are to be placed on the front side of the card. The remaining items shall be arranged on the card at the discretion of the Contracting Party.

4.3. In the revised Annex 6 it is necessary to repeat the definitions for categories of vehicles as well as to define subcategories that may be used by national legislation within the framework of existing categories. These subcategories must conform to those defined by EU Directive 91/439/EEC. It would be sensible to utilize the pictograms already used on the driving permits of the European Community together with the usual signs (B, C1 etc.) for categories and subcategories.

For special categories of vehicles not covered by categories A-E it would be reasonable to use “S”, and to define a list of vehicles included in this S category in national legislation.

4.4. The size of the permit should correspond to the size of credit cards that are currently in use as recommended by ISO, unrelated to the material used for the card.

4.5. The colour of the card is to be defined by national legislation.

4.6. The validity period of a DDP or conditions for its prolongation or exchange are to be defined by national legislation.

4.7. To delete the current paragraph 2 related to the language of issue of the permit and not to include it in the new version of Annex 6. At the same time it is necessary to state that all entries in the permit are to be typed using the Latin alphabet or transliterated after the national language using the Latin alphabet.
