Robert Nowak
Sustainable Transport Division

1968 Convention on Road Traffic

UNECE
Desirous of promoting the development and safety of international road traffic by establishing certain uniform rules.
1949 Convention on Road Traffic

UNECE - Transport Division

UN Transport Agreements and Conventions

98 Contracting Parties

Convention on Road Traffic, of 19 September 1949
1949 Convention on Road Traffic

Chapters:

1. General provisions
2. Rules of the road
3. Signs and signals
4. Provisions applicable to motor vehicles and trailers to international traffic
5. Drivers of motor vehicles in inter’l traffic
6. Provisions applicable to cycles in inter’l traffic
7. Final provisions
Annexes:

1. Additional provision concerning definitions of motor vehicles and cycle
2. Priority of passage
3. Registration number of vehicles in international traffic
4. Distinguishing signs of vehicles in international traffic
5. Identification marks of vehicles in international traffic
6. Technical conditions concerning the equipment of motor vehicles and trailers in inter’l traffic
7. Dimensions and weights of vehicles in inter’l traffic
8. Conditions to be fulfilled by drivers of motor vehicles in inter’l traffic
9. Model driving permit
10. Model international driving permit
1968 Convention on Road Traffic
To facilitate international road traffic and to increase road safety through the adoption of uniform traffic rules.
1968 Convention on Road Traffic

- Admission to international traffic
- Mutual recognition of vehicle certificates, driving permits
- Facilitation of international traffic, trade, tourism

78 Contracting Parties
1968 Convention on Road Traffic

Chapters

1. General provisions
2. Rules of the road
3. Conditions for the admission of motor vehicles and trailers to international traffic
4. Drivers of motor vehicles
5. Conditions for the admission of cycles and mopeds to international traffic
6. Final provisions

Annexes

1. Exceptions to the obligations to admit motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic
2. Registration number and plate of motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic
3. Distinguishing signs of motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic
4. Identification marks of motor vehicles in international traffic
5. Technical conditions concerning motor vehicles and trailers
6. Domestic driving permit
7. International driving permit
Definitions

- International traffic, road, carriageway, lane, intersection, level crossing, motorway, cycle, moped, motorcycle, motor vehicle, trailer, driver, mass ...
Chapter I: General provisions

Obligations

- To ensure that domestic rules of the road conform in substance to Chapter II
- No obligation to reproduce them all
- Additional (compatible) rules possible

Chapter II: Rules of the road

- Do not endanger persons or cause property damage
- Drivers: every moving vehicle shall have a driver
• The wearing of safety belts is compulsory for drivers and passengers of motor vehicles, occupying seats equipped with such belts, save where exceptions are granted by domestic legislation.
Seat belts: most cost-effective road safety device

The wearing of safety belts is compulsory for drivers and passengers of motor vehicles, occupying seats equipped with such belts, save where exceptions are granted by domestic legislation (Article 7 (5)).

… all forward-facing seats of vehicles … shall be equipped with approved safety belts or similarly effective approved devices (Annex 5, point 57).

Equip all seats with seat belts
Use approved devices only
Consider not granting exceptions
Enforce the use by checks and fines
Transposing the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic into domestic legislation ...
Drivers and passengers are required to use safety belts, Article 39, para 1.
Every driver shall possess the necessary physical and mental ability and be in a fit physical and mental condition to drive.
### Poland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum blood alcohol content [g/l]</th>
<th>Standard drivers</th>
<th>Novice drivers</th>
<th>Professional drivers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 0.2 g/l</td>
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### Portugal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum blood alcohol content [g/l]</th>
<th>Standard drivers</th>
<th>Novice drivers</th>
<th>Professional drivers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.5 g/l</td>
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### Romania

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<tr>
<th>Maximum blood alcohol content [g/l]</th>
<th>Standard drivers</th>
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<th>Professional drivers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.0 g/l</td>
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</table>
Drivers are forbidden to drive in the state of intoxication after consuming alcohol

- 0.2 - 0.5: non-criminal offence
- > 0.5: crime
Chapter III: Conditions for the admission of motor vehicles and trailers to international traffic

- Every vehicle shall be registered
- Registration certificate
Chapter III: Conditions for the admission of motor vehicles and trailers to international traffic

- A registration number;
- The date of first registration of the vehicle;
- The full name and home address of the holder of the certificate;
- The name or the trademark of the maker of the vehicle;
- The serial number of the chassis (the maker’s production or serial number);
- In the case of a vehicle intended for the carriage of goods, the permissible maximum mass;
- In the case of a vehicle intended for the carriage of goods, the unladen mass;
- The period of validity, if not unlimited.

The particulars entered in the certificate shall be in Latin characters or be repeated in that form.
Chapter III: Conditions for the admission of motor vehicles and trailers to international traffic

- Registration certificate
Chapter III: Conditions for the admission of motor vehicles and trailers to international traffic

- Every motor vehicle shall display its registration number at the front and the rear
- Except motorcycles
- The composition and the manner of displaying (Annex 2)
Chapter III: Conditions for the admission of motor vehicles and trailers to international traffic

- Distinguishing signs (Annex 3)
Chapter IV: Drivers of motor vehicles

- Every driver of a motor vehicle must hold a driving permit
- Driving permits issued only after verification that the driver possesses the required knowledge and skills
- CPs to recognize driving permits conforming to Annexes 6 and 7 and issued by other CPs
- Domestic and international driving permit models (Annexes 6 and 7)
Chapter V: Conditions for the admission of cycles and mopeds to international traffic

Basic requirements: brakes, bell, lights ...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Exceptions to the obligations to admit motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Registration number and plate of motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Distinguishing signs of motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Identification marks of motor vehicles in international traffic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Technical conditions concerning motor vehicles and trailers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Domestic driving permit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>International driving permit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 1: Exceptions to the obligations to admit motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic

- Mass or mass per axle or dimensions that exceed the limits fixed by domestic legislation
- Motorcycles with trailers, combinations of vehicles (a motor vehicle with several trailers), articulated vehicles for passenger transport
- Mopeds and motorcycles whose drivers (and passengers) are not equipped with helmets
Annex 2: Registration number and plate of motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic

- Composed of numerals, of numerals and letters, and of letters (Arabic numerals, capital Latin letters)

- All other numerals or characters shall be repeated in Arabic numerals and in capital Latin letters

- Legible at a distance of 40m (except motorcycles)
Annex 3: Distinguishing signs of motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic

- One to three letters in capital Latin characters
- Displayed separately or incorporated into the registration plate
- Possible to supplement with the flag or emblem
Annex 4: Identification marks of motor vehicles in international traffic

- The name of the vehicle maker
- Production/serial number on the chassis or body
- The engine number (if placed)
- Mopeds: cylinder capacity
- Marks: accessible, easily legible, cannot be easily altered or removed
- In Latin characters, Arabic numerals (or repeated in that form)
Annex 5: Technical conditions concerning motor vehicles and trailers

• Vehicles in international traffic must meet the technical requirements in the country of first registration

• Technical conditions: brakes, lights/light signalling, windscreen, speedometer, tires, rear view mirror, safety belts

• No ornaments, inside or outside, with unnecessary projections or ridges
Annex 6: Domestic driving permit

- Takes the form of a document; plastic or paper; preferred colour pink; mandatory data elements (1-7, 9, 12), additional elements (4d, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14); items 1-7 preferably on one side

- In Latin characters

- Categories and sub-categories; additional ones possible

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category code/Pictogram</th>
<th>Subcategory code/Pictogram</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
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Annex 7: International driving permit

- A booklet, format A6, grey cover, white inside pages
- Languages: cover in domestic language, last two pages in French and others in at least English, Russian and Spanish