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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**

SAFETY IN TUNNELS

Transmitted by Switzerland

Introduction

1. The small group, set up by the Working Party (WP.1) at its thirty-ninth session, on the basis of the recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels (documents TRANS/AC.7/9 and TRANS/AC.7/9/Add .1), proposed a number of amendments to the 1968 Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals (see document TRANS/WP.1/2002/28), although without formulating them in specific terms.

2. On the basis of the provisional proposals of the small group and the comments made at the fortieth session of WP.1 with reference to document TRANS/WP.1/2002/39, the delegation of Switzerland has drafted the following new proposed amendments.

Convention on Road Traffic

ARTICLE 25 bis Special regulations for tunnels indicated by special road signs

Paragraph 1

Delete subparagraph (c)

Paragraph 3

Replace the existing text by the following:

“3. Drivers are permitted to stop or park a vehicle only in case of emergency or danger. In doing so, they must, where possible, use the places specially indicated.”

Paragraph 4

Existing paragraph 3 becomes paragraph 4.

Convention on Road Signs and Signals

I. General provisions: Article 8

Amend paragraph 3 to read:

3. Nothing in this Convention shall prohibit the addition, *in particular* in order to facilitate the interpretation of signs, of an inscription in a rectangular panel below the sign or in a rectangular panel containing the sign; such an inscription may also be placed on the sign itself, if this does not make the sign more difficult to understand for drivers who cannot understand the inscription.

II. Article 13 bis: Special regulation signs

Insert a new paragraph 2 bis to read:

“2 bis (a) Sign E, 11^a shall be set up if the competent authorities consider it advisable. However, it shall obligatorily be set up when the length of the tunnel is 1,000 m or more; in this case, the length of the tunnel shall be included either in the lower part of the sign, or on an additional panel H, 2 described in Annex 1, section H. If the competent authorities consider it advisable, the name of the tunnel may be indicated on a rectangular panel at the entrance to the tunnel.

(b) Sign E, 11^b shall be set up only if the competent authorities consider it advisable.”

III. Annex 1, section E, chapter II

Replace the existing text of paragraph 9 by the following:

Paragraph 9 Signs **indicating** the entry to or exit from a tunnel where special rules apply

(a) Sign E, 11^a “TUNNEL” *shall indicate a section of road passing through a tunnel where the rules specially provided for traffic in tunnels are applicable. It shall be placed at the point from which these rules apply.*

(b) *If necessary, in order to warn users in advance, the sign E, 11^a may also be placed at an appropriate distance before the point where the special rules apply; the sign set up for this purpose shall show, either in its lower part, or on an additional panel H, described in section H of this Annex, the distance between the point at which it is set up and the beginning of the tunnel where the special rules apply.*

(c) Sign E, 11^b “END OF TUNNEL” *shall be placed* at the point from which the special rules no longer apply.

Insert a new paragraph 14 to read:

“14. Signs indicating a stopping place in case of emergency or danger

(a) Sign E, 17^a “STOPPING PLACE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY OR DANGER” (Lay-by) indicates *a widening of the roadway* which drivers must use, if possible, *for stopping or parking* in case of *emergency or danger*. *If this stopping place* is equipped with an emergency telephone and/or an extinguisher, the sign shall bear the symbols *F, 14* and/or *F, 15* either in its lower part or on ~~an additional~~ *a rectangular* panel *placed below the sign.* (...)

(b) *The sign E, 17^b may, however, also be used.”*

IV. Annex 1, section F, chapter I

Amend paragraph 1 to read :

“1. ‘F’ signs shall have a blue or green ground; they shall bear a white or yellow rectangle *or square* on which the symbol shall be displayed.”

Amend the last sentence of paragraph 2 to read:

“2. The symbol shall be black or dark blue, except symbols F, 1^a, F, 1^b, F, 1^c *and F, 15*, which shall be red.”

V. Annex 1, section F, chapter II

Add the new symbols F, 14 and F, 15 below:

“F, 14 ‘EMERGENCY TELEPHONE’”

“F, 15 ‘EXTINGUISHER’”

VI. Annex 1, section G, chapter V

Insert a new paragraph 11 to read:

“11. Signs indicating emergency exits

(a) **The signs G, 23^a and G, 23^b indicate the location of emergency exits.**

(b) **The signs G, 24^a, G, 24^b and 24^c serve to indicate the direction of the nearest emergency exit. They shall not be more than 50 m from each other and shall be placed at a height of 1 to 1.5 m on the side walls of tunnels in particular.**

(c) **The signs G, 23 and G, 24 are green in colour and the symbols, arrows and distance indications are white or of a light colour.”**

VII. Annex 3 REPRODUCTION IN COLOUR OF SIGNS, SYMBOLS AND PANELS REFERRED TO IN ANNEX 1

Add the following signs and symbols:



E, 17^a



E, 17^b



F, 14



F, 15



G, 23^a



G, 23^b



G, 24^a



G, 24^b



G, 24^c
