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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)  
Executive Committee (AC.3) of the 1998 Global Agreement

PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A GLOBAL TECHNICAL REGULATION CONCERNING  
UNIFORM PROVISIONS FOR LOCATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE  
HAND CONTROLS, TELL-TALES AND INDICATORS

Technical Sponsor: Canada

Note: The text reproduced below was considered and adopted by the Executive Committee (AC.3) of the 1998 Global Agreement at its fourth session, in March 2002. It is based on document TRANS/WP.29/2002/29 that had been submitted by Canada, however, without the annexed proposal for a draft global technical regulation (TRANS/WP.29/841, para. 168).

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<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/welcwp29.htm>

### **Objective of the proposal**

Many vehicle collisions result from drivers' distraction. One identifiable source of such distraction is diversion of drivers' attention from the driving task by confusing information displayed in the drivers' field of vision and enigmatic identification of controls necessary for vehicle's operation.

Travellers that use rental cars at their destinations are faced with diverse message systems on the vehicle dashboards and dissimilar identification of vehicle hand controls. The same applies to people purchasing new vehicles in countries allowing motor vehicles type-approved by, or certified in, different jurisdictions. The world-travellers and the new-vehicle-owners need time to learn their dashboard messages and identification of their vehicle controls. During this time these vehicle operators have to divide their attention between increasingly difficult task of driving and the task of identification of controls and comprehension of messages that the modern vehicles provide to their operators to "ease" their driving task.

There is a need to harmonize the way in which the motor vehicle controls, tell-tales and indicators are installed and identified.

The proposed global technical regulation would apply to all on-road motor vehicles except motorcycles. It would specify requirements for the location, identification, colour, and illumination of motor vehicle hand controls, tell-tales and indicators. It would be designed to ensure the visibility of tell-tales and indicators and to ensure the visibility and accessibility of vehicle controls to facilitate their selection under daylight and night-time conditions, in order to reduce the safety hazards caused by the diversion of the driver's attention from the driving task and by mistakes in selecting controls.

### **Description of the proposed regulation**

The proposed global technical regulation, enclosed in annex 1 to this document, is based on existing regulations and directives listed below. It also reflects the proposed draft ECE Regulation, which is presently considered by GRSG. The final GRSG approval of the ECE draft Regulation concerning location and identification of controls, tell-tales and indicators is expected during the next GRSG session in April.

### **Existing regulations and directives**

Though there are no regulations currently contained in the Compendium of Candidates, the following regulations were taken into account during development of the new global technical regulation regarding controls, tell-tales and indicators:

EC Directive 78/316/EEC – Identification of controls, tell-tales and indicators as amended by Commission Directive 93/91/EEC.

U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 49: Transportation; Part 571.101: Controls and displays.

Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Regulation No. 101 – Location and identification of controls and displays.

**International Voluntary Standards**

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|--------------------|--|
| ISO 2575-2001      | "Road vehicles: Symbols for control indicators and tell-tales"                           |
| ISO/FDIS 4040-2001 | "Road vehicles – Location of hand controls, indicators and tell-tales in motor vehicles" |
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