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World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)

Working Party on Noise (GRB)

**REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON NOISE (GRB)
ON ITS THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION**

(9 and 10 October 2003)

ATTENDANCE

1. GRB held its thirty-eighth session on 9 and 10 October 2003 in Geneva, under the chairmanship of Mr. D. Meyer (Germany). Experts from the following countries participated in the work following Rule 1(a) of the Rules of Procedure of WP.29 (TRANS/WP.29/690): Czech Republic; France; Germany; India; Italy; Japan; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Thailand; United Kingdom; United States of America. A representative of the European Commission (EC) participated. Experts from the following non-governmental organizations also participated: International Organization for Standardization (ISO); International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (OICA); International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA); European Association of Automobile Suppliers (CLEPA); European Tyre and Rim Technical Organization (ETRTO).
2. The documents without a symbol distributed during the session are listed in the annex to this report.

1. AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING ECE REGULATIONS

1.1. Regulation No. 51 – development
(Noise of M and N categories of vehicles)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2002/4/Rev.1; informal documents Nos. 1 and 2 of the annex to this report.

3. Recalling the purpose of his introduction into the table of sound level limits at the last GRB session, the expert from the Netherlands stated that in the report TRANS/WP.29/GRB/35, in the second sentence of paragraph 12., the word "increase" should read "decrease".

4. GRB agreed to consider in depth the proposal TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2002/4/Rev.1 concerning the introduction into the Regulation of an improved vehicle test method for the measurement of the sound level. The text has been prepared by the experts from Germany and ISO, and was revised in a further step by the GRB informal group. The expert from the United Kingdom stated his disappointment regarding the presentation of that proposal in which only the changes of importance were marked in bold characters. He expressed his preferences to mark in that document all the modifications to the existing text of Regulation No. 51.

5. The expert from the United Kingdom also stressed the need to clarify in paragraph 5.2. the words "major technical amendments". GRB agreed to delete the proposed paragraph 5.9. GRB also agreed to resume consideration, at its next session, of the sound level limit values indicated in paragraph 6.2.2. The experts from the European Commission and the United Kingdom questioned if the tyres used for the conformity of production procedure were specified in the proposal. With regard to the provisions of annex 3 concerning the tolerance of 1 dB(A) for lack of precision of the measuring instruments, the experts from France and Italy preferred to keep the last sentence of paragraph 3.1.3. Following the discussion, GRB, however, agreed to delete in this paragraph the sentence in brackets.

6. After consideration of the annexes to TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2002/4/Rev.1, GRB agreed to refer the document back to the GRB informal group for inclusion of its advice and for further development. The informal group was requested to prepare a revised document for consideration at the thirty-ninth GRB session.

7. Referring to informal document No. 2, the Chairman of the informal group, Mr. Ch. Theis, informed GRB on the intention of the group to finalize the measurement test procedure by the end of February 2004. He added that three or four additional meetings were needed in order to finalize the proposal. Mr. Theis announced that the group would meet again from 19 to 21 November 2003, in Bonn (Germany). He also informed GRB that Mr. H.-M. Gerhard (OICA) was no longer in a position to assume the secretariat of the group and that Mr. H.-P. Bietenbeck (OICA) had volunteered to continue the function of Secretary of the group.

8. The GRB Chairman thanked Mr. Gerhard for the work accomplished and Mr. Bietenbeck for his commitment. He also expressed his thanks for the good progress made by the informal group.

He stated his intention to inform WP.29 at its November 2003 session about the ongoing work of the informal group and about the date of its next meetings.

9. The expert from Germany introduced informal document No. 1 concerning the results of pass-by noise measurements carried out within the framework of a running governmental project. Following the discussion, GRB agreed to resume consideration of this subject at its next session.

1.2. Regulation No. 59 (Replacement silencing systems)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2002/1/Rev.1; TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2003/2.

10. The expert from CLEPA recalled the purpose of TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2002/1/Rev.1 and the results of the discussion at the last GRB session (TRANS/WP.29/GRB/35, paras. 22-24). The expert from the Russian Federation introduced TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2003/2 proposing some clarification for the verification procedure of the conformity of production (COP). Following the discussion, the expert from OICA expressed his concern on some inconsistencies of both proposals and he stated his preference to resume consideration at the next session on the basis of a consolidated document. He volunteered to prepare, in cooperation with the experts from CLEPA and the Russian Federation, a revision of the whole text of Regulation No. 59.

11. GRB welcomed that suggestion and agreed to resume consideration on this subject at its February 2004 session on the basis of a new proposal for draft amendments to Regulation No. 59, to be tabled jointly by OICA, CLEPA and the Russian Federation.

2. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS ON NOISE LEVELS

12. The expert from the United Kingdom gave a presentation concerning the preliminary results of a research project on noise test evaluation. He informed GRB that the tests had been carried out on the basis of the new test procedure to Regulation No. 51, which was proposed by Germany and ISO in TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2002/4. As a result of that study, he stated that no major correlation could be observed between the results of the new test method and those of the existing test procedure of Regulation No. 51.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

13. Following the announcement by the Secretary on Thursday morning, 9 October 2003, and in compliance with Rule 37 of the Rules of Procedure (TRANS/WP.29/690), GRB called the election of officers on Friday morning. Mr. D. Meyer was re-elected Chairman for the two sessions scheduled for the year 2004, and he thanked the group for its confidence.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1. Declaration of compliance with specific (former) version of an ECE Regulation

Documentation: TRANS/WP.29/2003/44.

14. Following the request by WP.29 (see report TRANS/WP.29/926, para. 76), the secretariat introduced TRANS/WP.29/2003/44 concerning the declaration of compliance with a specific (former) version of an ECE Regulation and underlined that this declaration has no legal implication for the Contracting Parties. Given the possibility that the proposed D-marking could raise confusion on the market, the expert from Japan expressed his concern and objection to accept that procedure.

15. Following the discussion, GRB noted that such specifications could be accepted in principle, but agreed that there was no specific need to add Regulation No. 51 to the list annexed to proposal TRANS/WP.29/2003/44.

16. The Chairman announced his intention to inform WP.29 on the outcome of the discussion on this subject.

4.2. Draft amendments to existing Regulations with regard to the deletion of the approval mark

Documentation: TRANS/WP.29/2003/75; TRANS/WP.29/2003/96.

17. The expert from OICA introduced documents TRANS/WP.29/2003/75 and TRANS/WP.29/2003/96, adopted by GRPE, concerning the deletion of the ECE approval marking, as requested by WP.29 at its one-hundred-and-twenty-seventh session (TRANS/WP.29/861, para. 132). The expert from Japan expressed his concern about the proposed deletion and underlined the importance of the presence of the approval mark for Contracting Parties which were not Member States of the European Union. After an exchange of views, GRB noted that the majority of the Working Party could support the deletion of the approval mark in Regulation No. 51, except by Japan.

4.3. Time-schedule for the thirty-ninth GRB session

18. Recalling the initial time-schedule for the GRB session in February 2004, the expert from Germany suggested to have the thirty-ninth session of GRB from 24 (starting at 9.30h) to 26 (completing at 17.30h) February 2004. GRB endorsed that suggestion. The Chairman confirmed the consent of WP.29 on this subject would be sought at its November 2003 session (note by the secretariat: WP.29 endorsed that request at its November 2003 session, see footnote 2/).

AGENDA FOR THE NEXT SESSION

19. GRB agreed on the following agenda for the thirty-ninth session, scheduled to be held in Geneva from 24 (from 9.30 h) to 26 (until 17.30 h) February 2004 1/ 2/:

1. Amendments to existing ECE Regulations
 - 1.1. Regulation No. 51 – development (Noise of M and N categories of vehicles)
 - 1.2. Regulation No. 59 – (Replacement silencing systems)
2. Exchange of information on national and international requirements on noise levels 3/
3. Other business

1/ As part of the secretariat's efforts to reduce expenditure, all the official documents as well as the informal documents distributed prior to the session, by mail or placed on the UNECE WP.29 website, will not be available in the conference room for distribution to session participants. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to the meeting.

(The WP.29 website address is: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/welcwp29.htm> select GRB and find "Working Documents" as well as "Informal Documents").

2/ The new dates have been confirmed by WP.29 at its one-hundred-and-thirty-first session (TRANS/WP.29/953, para. 10) and have been assigned by the UNOG Conference Services.

3/ Delegations are invited to submit brief written statements on the latest status in national requirements and, if necessary, to supplement this information orally.

Annex

LIST OF INFORMAL DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED WITHOUT A SYMBOL
DURING THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF GRB

No.	Transmitted by	Agenda item	Language	Title
1.	Germany	1.1.	E	Acceleration pattern: Results of pass-by noise measurement carried out within the frame of a running UBA project
2.	Germany	1.1.	E	Minutes of the 4th meeting of the GRB informal group
