PROPOSAL FOR DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO GTB PROPOSAL TRANS/WP.29/GRE/2001/31/Rev.2 ON REGULATION No. 48

(Installation of lighting and light-signalling devices)

Transmitted by the expert from the United Kingdom

A. PROPOSAL

Insert a new paragraph 5.24., to read:

"5.24. For vehicles equipped with a distributed lighting system:
   (a) any single failure in the system shall not result in the extinguishing of both lamps of any pair of lamps that fulfil the same function, and
   (b) any single failure in the system shall not result in the extinguishing of both the front position lamp and the passing beam headlamp on the same side of the vehicle."

B. JUSTIFICATION

The latest GTB proposal (TRANS/WP.29/GRE/2001/31/Rev.2) to introduce Distributed Lighting Systems into Regulation No. 48 has been noted. The UK is concerned that the failure provisions have been removed from the document.

The UK does not have strong views on DLS and this document should not be taken as implying support for DLS. However if GRE decides to introduce these systems into Regulation No. 48 a similar level of safety to conventional lighting must be assured, as an absolute minimum. Manufacturers may then choose to provide a greater level of safety, utilising the possibilities of the new technology.

We would like to prevent the possibility that both lamps in a pair of lamps (e.g. passing beam headlamps, rear position lamps, stop lamps) can fail at the same time due to a failure of a component of the DLS such as the light generator. We would also like to prevent the possibility of both the front position lamp and the passing beam headlamp on the same side of the vehicle failing at the same time.

Vehicle Technology and Standards
19 March 2004