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agenda items 5.3. and B.2.5.1.)

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GLOBAL TECHNICAL
REGULATION CONCERNING LIGHTING AND LIGHT-SIGNALLING DEVICES FOR
ROAD VEHICLE-INSTALLATION PROVISIONS FOR VEHICLES OTHER THAN
MOTORCYCLES

Transmitted by the representative of Canada

Note: This document contains a preliminary report on the development of a global technical regulation (gtr) concerning lighting and light-signalling devices for road vehicle-installation provisions for vehicles other than motorcycles. It is based on the text of informal document No. WP.29-134-9 distributed during the one-hundred-and-thirty-fourth session (TRANS/WP.29/1037, para. 93).

This document is a working document circulated for discussion and comments. The use of this document for other purposes is the entire responsibility of the user.

Documents are also available via the INTERNET:

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

A. INTRODUCTION

In 1975, on the initiative of the United States of America, GRE began work on a harmonized UNECE Regulation No. 48-H based on Regulation No. 48 – Uniform provisions concerning the approval of vehicles with regard to the installation of lighting and light signalling devices.

In 1992, Japan introduced a comprehensive document outlining differences between major world regions with respect to installation of lighting and light-signalling devices on motor vehicles. This document was instrumental in the development of revision two of the UNECE Regulation No. 48.

Until the year 1999, the work on the documents related to the progress of development of Regulation No. 48-H was performed by the WP.29/GRE secretariat. After discussion during the forty-third session of GRE, Canada took over the responsibility for the coordination of work regarding this Regulation.

The work on the Regulation continued until the one-hundred-and-twenty-sixth session of WP.29 in March 2002, at which time AC.3 established the priorities for developing future global technical regulations, and WP.29 adopted the Programme of Work for the 1998 Global Agreement. This Programme of Work included development of a global technical regulation (gtr) regarding the installation provisions for lighting and light-signalling devices for road vehicles other than motorcycles. Subsequently, upon the proposal from Canada, GRE agreed to redefine the goal of the work on Regulation No. 48-H and use this document as a starting point for a new gtr.

B. CURRENT STATUS

After receipt of the formal proposal (TRANS/WP.29/AC.3/4) for development of a gtr regarding the uniform provisions for installation provisions for lighting and light-signalling devices for road vehicles other than motorcycles, GRE has examined its merits.

To do so, GRE has followed the recommendations of paragraph 4. of TRANS/WP.29/882.

In the absence of a regulation in the Compendium of Candidate Global Technical Regulations, GRE has considered the source documents listed in the proposal, namely:

- ECE Regulation No. 48 – Uniform provisions concerning the approval of vehicles with regard to the installation of lighting and light-signalling devices.
- Australian Design Rule (ADR) 13 – Installation of lighting and light-signalling devices on other than L-group vehicles.
- Japan Safety Regulations for Road Vehicle (Articles 32 to 42 – Installation of Lights).
- U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 49: Transportation; Part 571.108: Lamps, reflective devices and associated equipment.

- Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Regulation No. 108 – Lighting system and retro-reflective devices.

GRE has also considered the known voluntary standards on the subject listed in the proposal, specifically:

- ISO 303:2001: "Road vehicles: Installation of lighting and light signalling devices for motor vehicles and their trailers"
- SAE J2442:SEP2000 "Harmonized provisions for installation of lamps and retro-reflective devices on road vehicles except motorcycles"

Although the proposal did not specify any immediate and measurable threat to vehicle (occupant) safety, GRE has agreed that placement, visibility, and manner of operation of lighting and light signalling devices have sufficient importance to warrant the development of a globally harmonized regulation.

To provide an effective, performance-oriented method to address the problem, GRE decided to follow its experience acquired during the work on the draft UNECE Regulation No. 48-H. This experience was strengthened by a document submitted by the United States of America, which listed differences between major world regulations on the subject and suggested solutions for global harmony. GRE did not seek any additional research or testing to help in the development of the proposed gtr.

GRE has held five informal sessions devoted entirely to the development of the harmonized provisions for installation of lighting and light signalling devices for road vehicles. The sixth session is planned for November 2004 in Bonn, Germany and, if necessary, one additional informal GRE session of this subject could be scheduled for January 2005.

Elements, which cannot be agreed upon by GRE, will be identified in the final document and dealt with in accordance with the protocol established by AC.3 and WP.29.

C. FUTURE STEPS

The GRE informal group anticipates being in a position to finalize the text of the proposed gtr based on the discussion during the planned informal sessions and present the formal proposal for the new gtr during the spring 2005 session of GRE. GRE may be in position to adopt the draft gtr during its fall 2005 session. Pending GRE's adoption of the draft gtr, the final report will be prepared and submitted together with the draft gtr, regarding the uniform provisions for installation provisions for lighting and light-signalling devices for road vehicles other than motorcycles, to AC.3 and WP.29 for consideration during their March 2006 sessions.

D. CONCLUSION

In view of the above preliminary review, GRE would like to request to be allowed to conclude its work on the draft global technical regulation regarding the uniform provisions for installation provisions for lighting and light-signalling devices for road vehicles other than motorcycles, which was proposed by Canada in document TRANS/WP.29/AC.3/2.
