

DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION No. 50

(Rear-registration plate illuminating devices)

Transmitted by the expert from Japan

Note: The amendments to the text are marked in ***bold and italic characters***, and existing texts to be deleted are ~~double crossed through~~.

PROPOSAL

Annex 6 shall be amended as follows to limit the categories of the plates that can be used on motorcycles and mopeds:

“1. Space to be illuminated

The devices ~~can be of category 1 or 2~~ ***shall be of category 2 for motorcycles and of category 1 or 2 for mopeds***. The devices of category ~~1~~ shall be designed to illuminate a space of at least 130 x 240mm, the devices of category 2 a space of at least 200 x 280 mm.”

JUSTIFICATION

- * For the purpose of promoting the harmonization of regulations, Japan desires to adopt R50 and achieve the reciprocal recognition of approvals.
- * The Japanese regulation requires the brightness of rear-registration-plate illuminating devices that is about two-fold greater than that specified in R50. JASIC has commissioned a study to be conducted by JATA□Japan Automobile Transport Technology Association□with the cooperation of the National Police Agency in order to see if it is possible to relax the Japanese regulation to the same or similar level required in R50. However, the result of the study indicated that rear-registration-plate illuminating devices conforming to R50 are not desirable from the standpoint of crime prevention (e.g., the registration numbers are not readable). For this reason, Japan cannot adopt R50 as is.
- * Under R50, two sizes of the plates for measuring the luminance of rear-registration-plate illuminating devices may be used: category 1 (130 x 240 mm) and category 2 (200 x 280 mm). Under the Japanese regulation, the plate size is required to be 125 x 230 mm, which is smaller than category 1 of R50, and the devices approved under R50 by using the category-1 plate do not conform to the Japanese photometric requirements at all. Nevertheless, the devices approved under R50 by using the category-2 plate can satisfy most of the Japanese photometric requirements if the upper edge of the Japanese plate is placed over the upper edge of the approved plate location (see Figure).
- * In other words, the photometric requirements of R50 will become almost equivalent to those of the Japanese regulation if the current provision allowing for the use of either category 1 or category 2 in applying for approvals is amended to designate the use of category 2 for motorcycles. Japan intends to adopt R50 if the above amendment is made.

Note: JASIC has undertaken a survey on its own regarding the sizes of rear-registration-plates for motorcycles used in European countries. The result showed that most of the countries are using plates of the size similar to that of category 2. Accordingly, Japan anticipates that this proposal is likely to be approved by GRE.

However, Japan will withdraw this proposal if other Contracting Parties insist that the category-1 plate must be used in approvals even for motorcycles.

In this case, our next proposal would be to amend R50 to isolate the provisions relating to rear-registration-plate illuminating devices from R50 and move them to the provisions concerning the illumination of rear-registration plates in R4 and to limit the applicability of R50 to lighting and light-signalling lamps excluding the rear-registration-plate illuminating devices.

- * The sentence in Annex 6, “The devices of category 2 shall be designed to illuminate a space of at least 130 x 240 mm ...,” is an error and should be corrected to read “The devices of category 1 shall be designed to illuminate a space of at least 130 x 240 mm”

Japan would like to hear the opinions of the other Contracting Parties regarding this proposal.

Reference Figure

