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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations

Working Party on Noise

**REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON NOISE  
ON ITS FORTY-SIXTH SESSION  
(Geneva, 3– 5 September 2007)**

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## **I. ATTENDANCE**

1. The Working Party on Noise (GRB) held its forty-sixth session from 3 (afternoon) to 5 September 2007 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 the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) (TRANS/WP.29/690): Belgium, Czech Republic; France; Germany; Hungary; India, Italy; Japan; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Republic of South Africa; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; United States of America. An expert from the European Commission (EC) participated. Experts from the following non-governmental organizations also participated: American Motorcyclist Association (AMA); International Organization for Standardization (ISO); International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (OICA); European Association of Automobile Suppliers (CLEPA); International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA); European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E). Upon the special invitation of the Chairman, experts from the following non-governmental organizations participated: European Tyre and Rim Technical Organization (ETRTO); Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA).

## **II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

2. GRB considered and adopted the agenda proposed for the fifty-sixth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/4 and Corr.1).

## **III. MEETING OF THE GRB INFORMAL GROUP ON AN IMPROVED NOISE TEST MEASUREMENT METHOD FOR MOTORCYCLES (Agenda item 2)**

3. The Chairman of the informal group on motorcycle noise emissions informed GRB about the results of the ninth meeting of the group, held in Geneva, on 3 September 2007 (afternoon only). He reported that the analysis of testing programme data were continued by the data collection sub-group and they showed, as a preliminary conclusion, that using the new method, the present limit values should probably be reduced. The informal group would continue its work on further data analysis, drive-by (roadside) test methodology and amendment proposal to Regulation No. 41. The tenth session of the informal group would be held on 19 February 2008 (the whole day), in Geneva, preceding the GRB session.

## **IV. Regulation No. 41 – (Noise of motorcycles) (Agenda item 3)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/5 and Corr.1

4. On the proposal of the expert from ISO, documents ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/5 and Corr.1 would be considered at the next session.

**V. Regulation No. 51-- (Noise of M and N categories of vehicles) (Agenda item 4)**

**A. Development (Agenda item 4(a))**

Documentation:ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/2 and ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/6.

5. GRB thought that the proposal of the expert from the Russian Federation, (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/2) aiming at the introduction of specific durability requirements for the vehicle noise performance would need more data to justify it. It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda, awaiting further data to be provided by the expert from the Russian Federation.

6. GRB had a general exchange of views on the amendment proposal to Regulation No. 51 (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/6), presented by CLEPA. The experts from France and Germany found the proposal too general and needing more precision. CLEPA was requested to revise the proposal, the consideration of which would be resumed at the next session.

**B. New sound limit values (Agenda item 4(b))**

7. The expert from the EC announced that according to EU Directive 2007/157/EEC (OJL 155/50 of 15.06 2007), and with effect from 6 July 2008 to 6 July 2010, vehicles to be type-approved shall undergo also the test described in Annex 10 of UNECE Regulation No. 51, for monitoring process only. He confirmed that the commercially sensitive data transmitted to the EU would be treated as confidential and made available on the EU website with restricted access only.

8. The expert from the United States of America expressed his disappointment with the EC's intention to share the collected data only with the Contracting Parties to the 1958 Agreement. He requested that the collected data be available to all participants of WP.29 and its subsidiary bodies in order to allow them, in a transparent way, to initiate the exchange of views on the new noise limit values. He requested that this problem be submitted to WP.29 at its November 2007 session.

9. The consideration of questions related to the implementation of Annex 10 to Regulation No. 51 would be resumed at the next session.

**C. Additional sound emission provisions (ASEP) (Agenda item 4(c))**

Documentation: Informal document No. GRB-46-03 of Annex 1 to this report

10. GRB followed with interest a presentation (GRB-46-03) made by the Chairman of the informal group on additional sound emission provisions (ASEP) on the progress of work. The group is still considering three different proposals for the ASEP test. In order to select the most appropriate one, more measurements should be done. The group will meet again from

19 to 21 September 2007, in the Hague, with the intention to draft the outlines of ASEP requirements for consideration at the next GRB session.

**VI. Regulation No. 59 (Replacement silencing systems) (Agenda item 5)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/7

11. Document ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/7 presented by the expert from CLEPA received the same comments as the proposal from CLEPA for Regulation No. 51 (see paragraph 6 above). The consideration of this item will be resumed at the next session.

**VII. 1998 AGREEMENT: ELABORATION OF A NEW GTR ON NOISE (Agenda item 6)**

12. GRB noted that the Executive Committee (AC.3) of the 1998 Agreement had agreed to continue the exchange of views on the possible development of a gtr on noise.

13. The expert from the European Commission was of the opinion that before initiating the development of a gtr on noise, the new limit values of Regulation No. 51 should be adopted.

14. The expert from the United States of America suggested that GRB should already consider the cost-effectiveness analysis of different levels of stringency, required by the 1998 Agreement.

**VIII. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS ON NOISE LEVELS (Agenda item 7)**

Documentation: Informal document No. GRB-46-01 of Annex 1 to this report

15. GRB followed with interest a presentation (GRB-46-01) made by the expert from Japan on the tightening of measures against motor vehicle exhaust noise pollution.

**IX. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON VEHICLE NOISE REDUCTION CALCULATION METHODS (Agenda item 8)**

16. No new information was received on this item, which would be kept on the agenda of the next session.

**X. INFLUENCE OF ROAD SURFACE ON TYRE ROLLING SOUND EMISSIONS (Agenda item 9)**

Documentation: Informal document No. GRB-46-03 of Annex 1 to this report

17. GRB followed with interest a presentation (Informal document No. GRB-46-03) by the expert from Norway on reduction potential of road traffic noise. The text of this study is available on <<http://www.iva.se/templates/page.aspx?id=4354>>.

18. GRB agreed to resume consideration of this subject at its next session.

19. The expert from the United States of America drew the attention of GRG to the influence of the fleet growth on traffic noise. Thus when establishing new noise limits the fleet growth expected for one or two decades should also be taken into consideration.

#### **XI. NOISE ABATEMENT (Agenda item 10)**

20. No new information was received on this item, which would be kept on the agenda of the next session

#### **XII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Agenda item 11)**

21. In compliance with Rule 37 of the Rules of Procedure (TRANS/WP.29/690), GRB called the election of officers on 5 September 2007 morning. The representatives of the Contracting Parties present and voting unanimously elected Mr. CH. Theis (Germany) as Chairman for the GRB sessions scheduled for the year 2008.

#### **XIII. TRIBUTE TO Mr. D. MEYER**

22. Learning that Mr. D. Meyer (Germany) left his current post in the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, GRB acknowledged his positive contributions and technical expertise as its Chairman since 2003, and wished him a great success in his new position.

#### **XIV. TRIBUTE TO Mr. K. FEITH**

23. Mr. K. Feith (United States of America) informed GRB that in the future he would no longer participate in this activity. GRB thanked Mr. Feith for his long and always high level contribution to the GRB's work and wished him further success.

#### **XV. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 12)**

24. GRB took note of the information given by the expert from Germany on the progress in the preparation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Environmentally Friendly Vehicles Conference, to be held on 19 and 20 November 2007, in Dresden.

#### **XVI. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

25. The following provisional agenda is proposed for the forty-seventh session of GRB, scheduled to be held in Geneva from 4 (starting at 14.30h) to 8 (concluding at 17.30h) February 2008:

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Regulation No. 41 – (Noise of motorcycles): Development.
3. Regulation No. 51 – (Noise of M and N categories of vehicles):
  - (a) Development;
  - (b) New limit values;
  - (c) Additional sound emission provisions (ASEP).
4. Regulation No. 59 – (Replacement silencing systems).
5. 1998 Agreement: Exchange of views on the elaboration of a new gtr on noise.
6. Exchange of information on national and international requirements on noise levels.
7. Influence of road surface on tyre rolling sound emissions.
8. Exchange of views on vehicle noise reduction calculation methods.
9. Noise abatement.
10. Other business.

Annex I

LIST OF INFORMAL DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED DURING THE SESSION (GRB-45-  
...)

No.	Transmitted by	Agenda item	Language	Title	Follow- up
1.	Japan	7.	E	Tightening of measure against motor vehicle exhaust noise pollution	(a)
2.	ASEP IG Chairman	4(c)	E	Report on the activity of the GRB informal working group on ASEP	(a)
3.	Norway	10.	E	Reduction potential of road traffic noise	(a)

Note:

(a) Consideration completed or to be superseded.



Annex II

## GRB INFORMAL GROUPS

<u>Informal group</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Motor vehicle noise emissions (Regulation No. 51)	Mr. Ch. Theis (Germany) Tel: +49 228 300 5343 Fax: +49 228 300 807 5343 E-mail: christian.theis@bmvbs.bund.de	Mr. H.P. Bietenbeck (OICA) Tel.: +49 221 90 32 409 Fax : +49 221 90 32 546 E-mail: hbietenb@ford.com
Motorcycle noise emissions (Regulation No. 41)	Mr. A. Erario (Italy) Tel: +39 06 4158 6228 Fax: +39 06 4158 3253 E-mail: antonio.erario@ infrastrutturetrasporti.it	Mr. P. Chesnel (IMMA) Tel: +41 22 920 2120 Fax: +41 22 920 2121 E-mail: pchesnel@ immamotorcycles.org
Additional sound emission provisions (ASEP)	Mr. B. Kortbeek (Netherlands) Tel: +31 70 339 4526 Fax: +31 70 339 1280 E-mail: boudewijn.kortbeek@ minvrom.nl	Mr. H.P. Bietenbeck (OICA) Tel.: +49 221 90 32 409 Fax : +49 221 90 32 546 E-mail: hbietenb@ford.com

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