OICA's comments on ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/2006/38

Note: The modifications to the current text of Regulation No. 48 are marked in strikethrough and bold characters.

A. PROPOSAL

Paragraph 6.20.7., amend to read:

"6.20.7. Electrical connections

The cornering lamps must be so connected that they cannot be activated unless the main-beam headlamps or the dipped-beam headlamps are switched ON at the same time.

6.20.7.1. The cornering lamp on one side of the vehicle may only be switched ON automatically when the direction indicators on the same side of the vehicle are switched ON and/or when the steering angle is changed from the straight-ahead position towards the same side of the vehicle.

The cornering lamp shall be switched OFF automatically when the direction indicator is switched OFF and/or the steering angle has returned in the straight-ahead position.

6.20.7.2. When the reversing lamp is switched ON, both cornering lamps may be switched on simultaneously, independently from the steering wheel or direction indicator position. In this case, the cornering lamps shall be switched OFF when the reversing lamp is switched OFF."

B. JUSTIFICATION

OICA welcomes the proposal presented by CLEPA and the Czech Republic for improving the text of the cornering lamps' electrical connection prescriptions and opening the Regulation to new opportunities.

However, OICA is of the opinion that the wording as proposed in ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/2006/38 can still be improved. For example, it is not necessary to separate the forward drive paragraph from the rearward drive paragraph. In addition, OICA wonders why to link the switching of the cornering lamps to the motion of the vehicle. According to the wording proposed in ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/2006/38, the vehicle must be in movement for allowing the new function to apply. This is not necessary and even not suitable, in particular during manoeuvres. The new text should also be written in such a manner that problems of interpretation cannot occur, making forbidden some systems currently in production.

In view of the above, OICA suggests the wording as proposed in bold characters, convinced that it suits the wishes of CLEPA and the Czech Republic as well as the necessities of technical production. The idea is to link the new function to the reversing lamp illumination. This permits the cornering lamps to be illuminated also when the vehicle is stationary but prevents to burden the oncoming traffic when the vehicle is driven in forward motion on the road. In addition, there are no safety disadvantages in switching on both cornering lamps once the reversing lamps are switched on.