

Report on the preparatory meeting of the informal group on operating voltage (OVIG)

Note: The text reproduced below was prepared by the expert from Germany as the proposed Chairman of the informal group on operating voltage. It is the official report of the preparatory meeting of the informal group, held in Paris (OICA offices) on the 7th of September 2006, aimed at preparing the Terms of References and Rules of Procedure for the informal group.

A. INTRODUCTION

GRE agreed on the need to establish an informal group on operating voltage issues for lighting and light-signalling devices (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/56, para. 17) and invited the expert from Germany to prepare a proposal regarding the terms of reference and the rules of procedure for the new informal group. WP.29 gave its consent for the establishment of this informal group at its June 2006 session (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1052, para. 27). GRE agreed to resume consideration of this subject at its 57th session. Consequently, Germany invited the interested experts to a meeting, held on the 7th of September 2006 in Paris, in order to develop the Terms of References to be tabled at GRE-57th session.

B. REPORT

1. Adoption of the agenda.

Documents: 5th CVG-Meeting agenda (D)
email of 2 August 2006 (D)
CVG-2006-20 (D)
CVG-2006-13-Info-doc-20-56GRE (D)
CVG-2006-22-first-concept-CVG (D)
CVG-2006-23-first-concept (OICA)

1.1. Status of the meeting

A discussion took place on the status of the meeting. The expert from the Netherlands was of the opinion that the meeting is the 5th meeting of the German expert group on constant voltage (CVG) and that it is up to GRE to decide on the name of the informal group. As a proposed solution, the expert suggested to note in the Terms of Reference that the meeting is an intermediate group meeting. OICA was of the opinion that the meeting should be the preparatory meeting of the informal group on Operating Voltage (cfr. email of 2 August – core of the text) and in consequence could not agree on the proposed agenda (5th CVG meeting agenda) because the title "constant voltage" would already imply a technical result. The experts finally agreed that the meeting is a preparatory meeting of the informal group on Operating Voltage.

1.2. Documents to be considered

OICA requested the deletion of document CVG-2006-13-Info-doc-20-56 GRE from the agenda because this document could not serve as a base for the Terms of Reference. The expert from OICA proposed to use document CVG-2006-23 as a starting point for the discussions. While the experts recognized that the work performed before the meeting could not be ignored, the Chairman

emphasized that document CVG-2006-23 is a well prepared concept and seemed to be the best base for the discussions on the Terms of Reference.

Conclusions:

- This meeting to be the preparatory meeting of the informal group on Operating Voltage.
- Report of the 4th meeting of the Constant voltage Group set up by Germany (CVG-2006-20) to be kept for information.
- CVG-2006-22 is part of the discussion.
- CVG-2006-23 to be the base for the discussions on the Terms of Reference.

2. Preparation of the Terms of Reference

Documents: CVG-2006-22-first-concept-CVG (D)
CVG-2006-23-first-concept (OICA)

The group agreed to follow the structure of document CVG-2006-23-first-concept.

Item 1 to read:

"1. Investigate issues of lighting and light-signalling with respect to "Operating Voltage", with regard to the adverse effect on road traffic safety."

Item 2 to be proposed as an alternative for GRE to chose.

Two proposals for item 2 were in competition. As the group could not agree on a preferred solution, it was decided to present the two proposals as an alternative for GRE to choose.

Alternative to read:

Proposal 1:

"2. Investigate, the discrepancies between the voltages defined for the type approval of the lighting and light signalling devices and the voltages defined at the vehicle, with the objective to align device and vehicle type approval voltage requirements, considering e.g.:

- headlamp glare;
- light source life;
- "voltage interface";
- vehicle under conditions of normal use;
- other items related to "Operating Voltage".

Proposal 2:

"2. Identify the potential to improve traffic safety with suitable technical solutions, and supporting regulatory actions, to include but not limited to:

- variance between vehicle type approved and in-service operating voltage;
- variance between component type approved voltage and vehicle type;
- approved voltage, with said lighting devices installed;
- headlamp glare;
- light source life;
- voltage interfaces;
- other items related to "Operating Voltage".

Item 3 to read:

"3. Investigate the benefits and the costs."

Item 4 to read:

"4. Develop agreed proposals, including the appropriate justifications and timing plan, for amendments to the relevant Regulations, including test procedures and to submit formal documents for the 59th session of GRE."

Note: At the time of the meeting, there were still uncertainties on the organization of GRE 57th session. The experts targeted October 2007 (59th session of GRE) assuming that the 57th session would be held in 2006. Because of the postponement of this session to March 2007, it must be understood that the target will be shifted by 6 months as well, i.e. the 59th session of GRE to be held in March 2008.

Operating principles: adopted

3. Chairmanship and the secretariat

Proposal:

Chairman: Germany (Dr. Manz - Lichttechnisches Institut Universität Karlsruhe).
Secretariat: OICA (Mr. Fontaine).

All delegates agreed on the German chairmanship.

The expert from the Netherlands rejected OICA as the secretariat and set out, that he is in favour of a CLEPA member for this position.

The Chairman pointed out the agreement of GRE-56, as an attempt to re-integrate OICA, and to have a good cooperation between the Governments, CLEPA and OICA, in particular as the issue would lead to amendments to Regulation No. 48. In the view of the above-mentioned reason, it is logical that OICA provides the secretariat.

The expert from the Netherlands placed great emphasis on the fact that GRE would be the right body to decide on the Chairmanship and the secretariat of the informal group as well as on its final name.

Conclusions:

- GRE to decide on the secretariat.
- GRE to decide on the name for the informal group.

4. Date and place of the first meeting of OVIG

Decision was delayed in view of the uncertainties for GRE 57th session organization.
