



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-SEVENTH SESSION
(Geneva, 19-21 February 2008)**

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I. ATTENDANCE

1. The Working Party on Noise (GRB) held its forty-seventh session from 19 (afternoon) to 21 (morning) September 2007 in Geneva, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ch. Theis (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 forty-eighth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2008/1). The informal documents distributed during the session are listed in Annex I to this report.

III. MEETINGS OF THE GRB INFORMAL GROUPS (Agenda item 1) (see Annex III to this report)

A. Motor vehicle noise emission (Regulation No. 51)

3. This group has completed its work and is now dissolved.

B. Motorcycle noise emissions (Regulation No. 41) – Improved noise test measurement method for motorcycles

4. The Chairman of the informal group on noise of motorcycles informed GRB about the results of the tenth meeting of the group, held in Geneva, on 19 February 2008 (morning only). He reported about the proposal made by the Data Expert Group (DEG) concerning the content and the structure of draft amendments to Regulation No. 41 which will include the following main elements: base type approval test (ISO 326-2), additional sound emission provisions, enforcement testing (road side checks) and anti-tampering provisions. After an in-depth consideration of the proposals by the informal group during its next meetings, which are expected to be held on 2 and 3 July 2008 (location to be confirmed) and on 1st September 2008 (afternoon), in Geneva, preceding the GRB session, a revised proposal to amend Regulation No. 41 will be transmitted to GRB.

**C. Motorcycle noise emissions (Regulation No. 41)
Data Expert Group (DEG)**

5. The Chairman of the Data Expert Group reported that the group had met on the 18 of February 2008 and had agreed to upload all their documents onto the WP.29 website. This will include a revised version of the database showing where the motorcycles have been made, for which market and who has submitted the data. As already mentioned in para. 4. above, the group is still working on establishing the effect of the combination of the base type approval test and the ASEP test, and has finalized the drive-by enforcement test and the anti-tampering provisions. The expert from Italy offered to combine the agreed elements into an amendment proposal to Regulation No.41, for discussion by the Motorcycle Noise Emissions Group (Regulation No. 41). The DEG intends to meet again on 1st September 2008 (afternoon only), preceding the GRB session.

IV. REGULATION No. 41 – NOISE OF MOTORCYCLES (Agenda item 2)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/5 and Corr.1, informal documents Nos. GRB- 47-1, GRB- 47-8 and GRB- 47-11

6. GRB took note of the outline of the proposals which would be made for the 04 series of amendments to Regulation No.41, presented by the Chairman of the Data Experts Group (document No. GRB-47-11). Informal document No. GRB-47-8 will be taken into consideration in the elaboration of the proposals.

7. GRB considered and adopted the following amendment proposal to Regulation No. 41 (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/5 and Corr.1, informal document No. GRB-47-1):

Annex 5, paragraph 1.2.2.

For ISO Standard 2599:1983 read ISO Standard 2559:2000

It will be submitted to WP.29 and AC.1 at their June 2008 sessions as Corrigendum 1 to Revision 1.

**V. REGULATION No. 51 - NOISE OF M AND N CATEGORIES OF VEHICLES
(Agenda item 3)**

A. Development (Agenda item 3(a))

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/2 and ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/6, informal documents Nos. GRB-47-2, GRB-47-4 and GRB-47-5

8. Document ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/2 was deleted from the list of documents to be discussed, document ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/6 has become obsolete.

9. GRB followed with interest a presentation by the expert from CLEPA (documents Nos. GRB-47-4 and GRB No. 47-5) and agreed, in principle, with the CLEPA findings concerning the:

- (a) absorbing fibrous materials,
- (b) noise reduction systems with variable geometry,
- (c) new driving-by test in Regulation Nos. 51 and 59,
- (d) particularities for automatic transmission,
- (f) static noise test.

They will be incorporated into the amendment proposals by CLEPA.

B. New sound limit values (Agenda item 3(b))

10. No new information was received on this item. It will be kept on the agenda of the next session.

C. Additional sound emission provisions (ASEP) (Agenda item 3(c))

11. The Chairman of the informal group reported the progress made on the 8th, 9th and 10th meetings.

1. Process

There was a clear preference of the group for the common proposal of France and Germany. In the meanwhile OICA has also been working on their method, based on irregularities in the sound behaviour. At the next meeting the group will be asked if it wants to change the preference. If not, the group will present to GRB a proposal to amend Regulation No. 51. GRB agreed with this approach and extended the terms of reference of the group to work also on a proposal to cover the lower revolutions area.

2. Test Procedure

The procedure will be based on a signed declaration of the manufacturer that his vehicle fulfils the requirements of Regulation No. 51, Annex 10. The technical service will only perform the real test "in case of doubts". There was no unanimous agreement on this method. Some experts (i.e. Japan) preferred the "always testing". Almost all of the members were of the opinion the requirements of Regulation No. 51, Annex 10 should be part of COP.

3. Dataset

There was a wish for more information on vehicles like categorization, type and manufacturer. OICA agreed to give information on categorization; the other database owners (Japan, Germany, France and the Netherlands) also agreed to give information on brand and type of vehicles. OICA will consider to give also these information.

**VI. REGULATION No. 59 – (REPLACEMENT SILENCING SYSTEMS)
(Agenda item 4)**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/7 and informal document No. GRB-47-3

12. GRB considered and agreed in principle with the revised text of Regulation No. 59 (document GRB-47-3 superseding ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2007/7), proposed by CLEPA.

The expert from CLEPA would revise the document, taking into account the comments received during the session, and submit it for consideration to GRB in September 2008.

VII. REGULATION No. 117 - TYRE ROLLING NOISE AND WET GRIP ADHESION (Agenda item 5)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2008/2 and informal document No. GRB-47-7

13. GRB considered ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2008/2 and adopted the amendments reproduced in Annex II to this report. They will be submitted to WP.29 and AC.1 at their June 2008 sessions. Amendments to the scope of the Regulation, proposed in the same document, will be reconsidered at the next session of GRB. Informal document No. GRB-47-7 was withdrawn.

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

14. Given the absence of any new information there was no discussion on this item.

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

15. No new information was received on this item which will be kept on the agenda of the next session.

X. INFLUENCE OF ROAD SURFACE ON TYRE ROLLING SOUND EMISSIONS (Agenda item 8)

Documentation: Informal documents Nos. GRB-47-6 and GRB-47-9 of Annex 1 to this report

16. GRB followed with interest presentations (informal documents Nos. GRB-47-6 and GRB-47-9) by the experts from the United States of America and the Netherlands. From the discussion which followed the presentations, it became clear that tyre noise levels depend significantly on the status of the test track, which is not in the mandate of GRB. However, GRB will make available to interested experts an informal paper, the redaction of which was volunteered by the expert from ISO in his personal capacity.

17. GRB agreed to resume the consideration of this subject at its next session. The expert from the Netherland informed that he would give a presentation.

XI. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON VEHICLE NOISE REDUCTION CALCULATION METHODS (Agenda item 9)

18. Given the absence of any information on this item, it was removed from the agenda.

XII. NOISE ABATEMENT (Agenda item 10)

19. The expert from the European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E) in her statement presented a general overview on the problems generated by road traffic and on the noise reduction measures, to be taken mainly by the European Union. The item on noise abatement will be kept on the agenda of the next session.

XIII. TRIBUTE TO Mr. K. FEITH

20. Learning that Mr. K. Feith (United States of America) will retire, GRB acknowledged his professional contributions, always of great value, to GRB activities for the past 30 years and wished him a long and happy retirement.

XIV. AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

21. The following provisional agenda was adopted for the forty-eighth session of GRB, scheduled to be held in Geneva from 1 (starting at 14.30h) to 3 (concluding at 12.30h) September 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. Regulation No. 117
6. 1998 Agreement: Exchange of views on the elaboration of a new grt on noise
7. Exchange of information on national and international requirements on noise levels
8. Influence of road surface on tyre rolling sound emissions
9. Noise abatement
10. Other business

XV. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 12)

22. In his statement the expert from the United States of America, representing the National Federation of Blinds (document No. GRB-47-10) warned about the danger presented for blind people by some silent cars, like the hybrids. In his opinion, the legislation should require a minimum sound standard for new automobiles.

23. GRB took note of informal document No. GRPE-55-23, envisaging the establishment of an informal group under GRPE, working in cooperation with GRB, to develop an evaluation concept for environmentally friendly vehicles (EFV).

Annex I

LIST OF INFORMAL DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED DURING THE SESSION (GRB-47-...)

No.	Transmitted by	Agenda item	Language	Title	Follow-up
1.	Secretariat	2.	E	Proposal for Corrigendum 1 to Revision 1 to Regulation No. 41 (Noise of motorcycles)	(a)
2.	CLEPA	3(a)	E	Proposal for draft amendment to Regulation No. 51 (Noise of M and N categories of vehicles)	(a)
3.	CLEPA	4.	E	Proposal for a revised text of the Regulation (Replacement silencing systems)	(a)
4.	CLEPA	3(a)	E	Justifications of informal documents GRB-47-02 and GRB-47-03 proposing amendments to Regulations Nos. 51 and 59	(a)
5.	CLEPA	3(a)	E	Result of sound emissions of vehicles tested according to Regulation No. 51	(a)
6.	USA	8.	E	US Pavement Noise Research	(a)
7.	Netherlands	5.	E	Regulation No. 117 -. (Tyre rolling noise and wet grip adhesion) Proposal for draft amendments to the Regulation	(a)
8.	Data Expert Group	8.	E	Proposal for draft amendments to Regulation No. 41 (Motorcycle noise emissions)	(a)
9.	Netherlands	8.	E	Some recent experiences with Tyre noise measurements	(a)
10.	National Federation of Blind (USA)	11.	E	The Danger Posed by Silent Vehicles	(a)
11.	Data Expert Group	2.	E	ECE R41 revision - Outline of main modules with cross reference to draft amending text	(a)

Note:

Follow-up (a) = Consideration completed or to be superseded.

Annex II

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION No. 117

(see paragraph 13 of the report)

Paragraphs 12.2. to 12.4., amend to read

- "12.2. As from the entry into force of Corrigendum 1 to the 01 series of amendments, a Contracting Party applying this Regulation shall refuse to grant national approval of a type of tyre if the tyre falls within the scope of this Regulation and does not comply with the rolling sound emissions requirements of this Regulation.
- 12.3. As from 2 February 2009, Contracting Parties applying this Regulation with respect to the adhesion level of tyres in rolling conditions on wet surfaces shall grant approvals only if the tyre type to be approved meets the requirements of this Regulation as amended by the 01 series of amendments.
- 12.4. As from the dates given below, a Contracting Party applying this Regulation shall refuse to allow the sale or entry into service of a tyre which falls within the scope of this Regulation and which does not meet the rolling sound emission requirements of this Regulation.

For Class C1 tyres up to 185 section width	1 October 2009
For Class C1 tyres over 185 up to 215 section width	1 October 2010
For Class C1 tyres over 215 section width	1 October 2011
For Class C2 and Class C3 tyres	1 October 2009

Prior to the above dates, Contracting Parties applying this Regulation shall not require for the sale or entry into service of a replacement tyre which falls within the scope of this Regulation, for it to comply with the rolling sound emission level requirements of this Regulation."

Annex III

GRB INFORMAL GROUPS

<u>Informal group</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
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
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