

GRE INFORMAL WG – “HORIZONTAL REFERENCE DOCUMENT”

DRAFT REPORT OF THE AD-HOC 1st MEETING

Held in Geneva, 07 October 2010

1. Introduction

GRE, at its 64th session, agreed to establish an informal group to develop a horizontal reference document (HRD) that would contain common provisions currently duplicated in each of the lighting and light signalling regulations. This decision is based upon an original proposal from France (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/2008/32) and a presentation from the GRE chairman at the 63rd GRE session (GRE-63-27).

GRE accepted the offer from France to chair the informal group and elected Mr. Christian Pichon (France) as chairman with the secretarial duties being managed by GTB (Mr. Geoffrey Draper).

The official GRE64 meeting completed its agenda ahead of time and the opportunity was taken to hold this first (ad-hoc) meeting open to all GRE participants in order to have an initial exchange of views.

2. Agenda

As this was an ad-hoc initial meeting, no official agenda has been issued but the objectives of the meeting were identified by the chairman to be as follows:

- Define the basic approach
- Establish the membership of the group
- Draft the terms of reference
- Agree the meeting schedule
- Identify the initial tasks and associated actions

3. Participants

This “ad-hoc” first meeting was open to the experts attending the GRE 64th session and no list of participants was produced.

4. Basic Approach

The basis for the work is the proposal for the light- signalling regulations submitted by France in ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/2008/32) which will require updating. The potential benefits are described in the introductory document (GRE-63-27) presented to GRE at its 63rd session by the GRE Chairman. The chairman, Mr. Pichon, explained his intention to divide the task and share the work amongst the members of the informal group.

Mr Gorzkowski, GRE Chairman, advised that the establishment of a “reference document” instead of a regulation will avoid problems associated with managing series of amendments and their adoption by the contracting parties. A “Horizontal Reference Document” (HRD) will be managed through a formal amendment procedure but this would be the responsibility of GRE.

Mr Goldbach (OICA) expressed concerns relating to how the type approval system will work when both a Regulation and an associated HRD will be involved. Mr Gorzkowski explained that all the technical requirements will remain in the regulation and it would only be the common test and administrative requirements that would be moved to the HRD. The important question will relate to how the amendments to the HRD will be managed. Responding to a further question from Mr Goldbach, Mr Gorzkowski explained that no requirements relating to the type approval will be contained in the HRD, as is the case for RE3. Mr Matthes (Germany) added that the Component Regulation will contain a reference to the appropriate section in the HRD but emphasised that the group will need to pay particular attention to ensure that the provisions in the HRD will apply to all the associated regulations.

Dr Manz (Germany) reminded the group that a precedent has been established by the GRE decision to move all the requirements concerning colour from the device regulations into Regulation 48. Mr Gorzkowski (GRE Chairman) emphasised that the HRD is not a regulation; it will not have series of amendments; there will be no requirement for voting at WP29. He also reminded the group that currently there is a problem created by moving the colour requirements into Regulation 48 because a change to the colour provisions will normally provoke a new series of amendments. By moving the colour provisions into the HRD this is avoided. Any change to the common requirements in the HRD would provoke a change in the series of amendments of the component regulations. Mr Goldbach (OICA) supported this approach and foresees significant benefits.

Mr Matthes (Germany) questioned how changes to the HRD will be approved as nothing may change in the regulation because the reference to the HRD will remain the same. Mr Gorzkowski (GRE Chairman) proposed that the HRD is treated in the same way as RE3 and approved at WP29-AC1.

Mr Pichon (Chairman) questioned how a change to the test methods will impact upon the type approvals. Mr Gorzkowski explained that in the case of serious changes to the HRD, the communication document will refer to a modification level of the HRD. This will require a document control system. In the case of a small change, this can be managed by a reference in the component regulation “as amended from time to time”. Dr Manz (Germany) considered that this approach is sufficient as the HRD will be part of the legal framework and will be managed by GRE. Mr Gorzkowski (Canada) explained that based upon his experience with the Canadian Standards the use of the expression “as amended from time to time” will be satisfactory as GRE will be in control.

Mr Schmidt (CLEPA) asked whether the HRD would impede the introduction of new technologies. Mr Gorzkowski (Canada) considered that there may be a risk but attention will be required to maintain the HRD in line with the new technologies. The chairman emphasised that the HRD is not intended to impede the introduction of new technologies. In response Mr Schmidt (CLEPA) asked for an assurance that it will still be possible to introduce new technologies into existing regulations. Mr Gorzkowski (GRE Chairman) emphasised that nothing changes and the device regulations will always be the basis for type approval and will continue to be amended as is current practice.

Mr Dutrieux (IMMA) asked how the group foresees the impact on Regulations 53, 74 and 86 relating to installation requirements of two wheeled vehicles and forestry vehicles to

understand how this will impact upon the workload of IMMA. Mr Gorzkowski (GRE Chairman) commented that the first phase of the work will focus on the component regulations but longer term the installation regulations will also be included as part of the scope of the group.

5. Membership

The chairman called for experts to notify the secretary of their intention to participate in this informal group by the end of November 2010. He confirmed that all experts associated with GRE are invited to participate where they can present their own expert opinion and they may represent the position of their contracting party or their NGO.

6. Terms of Reference

A first draft of the Terms of Reference for the informal group has been produced based upon the discussion during the meeting. It is available as document HRD01-02.

7. Meeting Schedule

The chairman proposed that, in order to progress in an efficient manner, a small group consisting of chairman, secretary and interested experts will meet to prepare for the first formal meeting of the group.

The first informal working group meeting will be held in conjunction with the 65th session of GRE in March 2011. Thereafter meetings will be scheduled to take place in conjunction with GRE sessions. Additionally, where appropriate and in order to make good progress, members will collaborate via email correspondence and teleconference

8. Tasks and Agreed Actions

- a) GRE experts wishing to participate in the informal working group are requested to indicate their intentions to the secretary by email (grdhome@totalise.co.uk) before 30 November 2010. Additionally they are requested to indicate which part of the work they will prepared to work upon and to provide their initial contribution identifying the common provisions of the Regulations that can be moved to the HRD by 31 December 2010.
- b) The Chairman will arrange a small meeting consisting of the Chairman, Secretary and one representative of OICA, CLEPA and GTB to take place in the second half of January 2011.
- c) Documents will be placed on the GRE website by 15 February 2011 in preparation for the 65th GRE session.
- d) The secretary will compile a list of informal working group members and the task they have undertaken.