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Other business – Proposal for a protocol to manage drawings, calibration and maintenance procedures associated with test tools referenced by Regulations and global technical regulations in the framework of the 1958 and 1998 Agreements

Proposal for a protocol for test devices

Transmitted by the Chair of the informal group on the development of global technical regulation No. 7 (Head restraints)*

The text reproduced below was prepared by the Chair of the informal group on the development of global technical regulation No. 7 to set out a methodology for indexing information files for each and any particular test device that provides full transparency to any changes that may be required to that device over time. It is submitted to the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) for consideration (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1089, para. 96).

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2010–2014 (ECE/TRANS/208, para. 106 and ECE/TRANS/2010/8, programme activity 02.4), the World Forum will develop, harmonize and update Regulations in order to enhance the performance of vehicles. The present document is submitted in conformity with that mandate.

I. Introduction

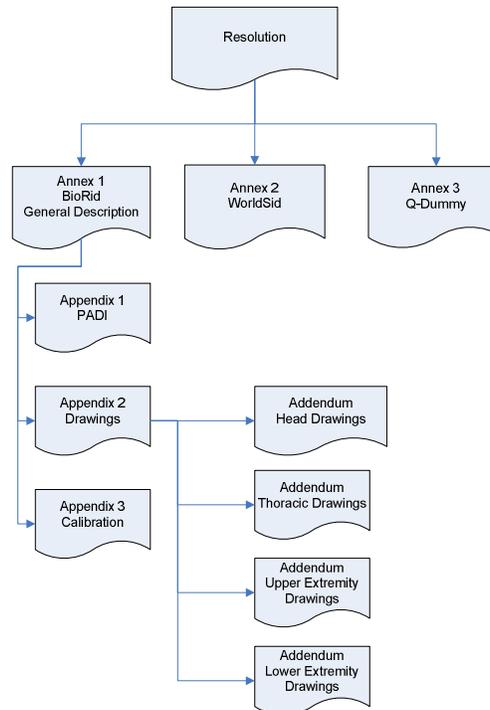
1. During the 143rd session of WP.29 (November 2007), the Executive Committee of the 1998 Agreement (AC.3) agreed to proposals from GRSP to develop amendments to global technical regulation (gtr) No. 7 (Head restraints). The principal consideration of the informal group was to establish the suitability of the BioRID dummy for regulatory use and, if appropriate, bring forward proposals for its adoption.

2. At the 152nd session of WP.29, the Executive Committee considered a request from the Chair of the informal group for guidance on their preference for managing files that define the technical details associated with the dummy (e.g. drawings, calibration etc.) and in particular, to ensure legislative control of technical revisions to the tool (version control). The Executive Committee noted the relevance of the issue to regulations developed in the framework of both the 1958 and 1998 Agreements and also to other test devices employed for the purpose of regulatory assessment. A proposal was invited from the gtr No. 7 informal group that may be considered for adoption, to serve not only the issue of dummies but also the wider interests of WP.29.

II. Proposal

3. This proposal sets out a methodology for indexing information files for each and any particular test device that provides full transparency to any changes that may be required to that device over time. It is proposed that this be achieved by means of a Resolution that would be structured to provide specific information concerning test tools used in regulations of both the 1958 and 1998 Agreements.

4. Each test tool identified in the new Resolution would be defined within a unique Annex and within the Annex there could be a number of Appendices dedicated to specific details associated with the particular tool. This proposed structure is illustrated below using the BioRID dummy as an example:



5. This structure would be supported by a document numbering system that provides a unique identifier to each Annex. This would ensure that, for example, every document associated with the BioRID dummy would have a common high level number. Similarly WorldSID would be uniquely identified. This numbering protocol would extend into the Appendices and would provide for the use of the established convention of /Rev.x when changes occur. Determination of the numbering convention would be with the cooperation of the secretariat.

6. In making this proposal it is recognized that the introduction of a formal record of test tool specifications may have implications for working groups other than GRSP. It is therefore recommended that this proposal be brought to their attention.

III. Justification

7. Test tools used to establish regulatory compliance are also used within the manufacturing industry for research and development purposes. It is also recognised that the test tool manufacturer may change the design of the tool over time, often in response to user initiatives. These changes can affect the performance of the tool when used for regulatory compliance.

8. It is necessary to ensure that test tools used to assess a product's compliance with regulatory requirements are of equivalent build and calibration. This proposal ensures that all regulatory authorities can access the specific data necessary to ensure such standardization.