

1st Progress Report of the Informal Group on Plastic Glazing

1. The Informal Group on Plastic Glazing has had a 1st meeting on 18/19 January 2011 at OICA office in Paris. Members are from GRSG, plastic industry and test houses. Representatives of plastic industry gave presentations on the activities of the companies on plastic materials for glazing. They showed the problems and possibilities to examine the different characteristics of the plastic material.

2. The group discussed the usefulness of the tests from ECE R43 for assessing plastic windscreens. Concerning abrasion several test methods like Taber, Amtec-Kistler and falling sand have been considered. The Taber test was found a relevant test. A round robin test with the Taber Abraser was suggested for evaluating the test method and checking the comparison and reproducibility of the results between different laboratories. A task force is trying to present the results for the next meeting of the informal group.

3. There will also be some investigations of the resistance to temperature changes test by some laboratories for an increasing number of temperature cycles and the result will be reported on the next meeting. The group sees necessity of combination of tests like weathering/abrasion, abrasion/chemical resistance and humidity/ball drop. Durability can be described by a combination of abrasion and weathering tests.

4. A regulatory text was started on the basis of document ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSG/2009/8. The flexibility test was found necessary to describe a rigid windscreen. The definition of windscreen is taken from gtr 6. The requirements of the headform test on a complete windscreen lead to the discussion of pass-rates like in gtr 6 or retests like in ECE R43. The final decision shall be given by GRSG. The discussion on the ball drop test was started. The heights of drop shall be examined for the next meeting.

5. The next meetings of the informal group will be on 14/15 June 2011 at KRD, a manufacturer of plastic windscreens and laminated plastic windows close to Hamburg/Germany and on 21/22 November 2011 at Bayer in Leverkusen/Germany with the possibility to see the different test equipment for plastic material.

6. All papers of the 1st meeting of the informal group can be seen under the link:
http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp29/wp29wgs/wp29grsg/igpg_1.html?expandable=0&subexpandable=7
