

Simplification of the Approval Markings in the Context of the Work of the WP29 Informal Group “DETA”

At its 13th meeting in November 2011, the DETA group discussed important issues concerning the try-out, funding and administration of the database being developed as a means of storing type approval and self certification information. The report of the meeting and copies of associated documents can be downloaded from the WP29 website (<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp29/wp29wgs/wp29gen/gendeta14.html>)

At the 13th DETA meeting, GTB indicated that its members have learned to cope with the complicated approval markings over the years since the problem was first highlighted to WP29 in March 2004 (WP.29-132-3). However, the availability of a database remains of interest depending upon the financing arrangements. GTB has no means of directly contributing to the financing of the database but understands that the possible funding options being discussed in the DETA group could be acceptable in principle. Notwithstanding the need to find an acceptable financial model, it is clear that the database has the necessary capability to enable the removal of most markings from the lighting and signalling devices. These markings could be replaced by a “unique identifier” that would give access to the database where all the necessary information, in a more “user friendly” format, could be accessed.

From the GTB perspective there is no further action to be taken until the questions of administration, financing and try-out of the database have been addressed. These issues are described in the paper presented by the Chairman of the DETA informal group to WP29 in March 2012 (document ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2012/35). Equally importantly, as already discussed in GRE65 and by the GRE chairman at WP29, there remains the need for all contracting parties to the 1958 agreement to adopt the database if the simplification of markings is to become a reality.

GTB recommends that the outcome of the activity of the DETA group is awaited before work is started to amend the Regulations as the basis for the simplification of the approval markings. If there is a decision to proceed it will be necessary to identify the “users” of the information in the database to ensure that it is suitably adapted to their needs. The next step will be a complicated editorial task that will require some decisions relating to how the type approval marking information will be presented in the database and how the “unique identifier” will be specified in the regulations. For example, the current arrangement of the approval markings could simply be transferred from the device to a drawing held in the database or, alternatively, a detailed description of the type approved functions could be provided. The synchronisation of the introduction of the database and the entry into force of the whole package of amended regulations will require careful management.
