United Nations Road Safety Conventions

Robert Nowak, UNECE secretariat
International Treaties Seminar, Road Safety
5 June 2014, New York City
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
The only inter-governmenal permanent body in the UN system that focuses on improving road safety

Guardian of UN legal instruments in the area of road safety
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Legal instruments managed by WP.1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Convention on Road Traffic, of 19 September 1949</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, of 19 September 1949</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>European Agreement on the Application of Article 23 of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic concerning the Dimensions and Weights of Vehicles Permitted to Travel on Certain Roads of the Contracting Parties, of 16 September 1950</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Convention on Road Traffic, of 8 November 1968</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic (1968), of 1 May 1971</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Protocol on Road Markings, Additional to the European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Signs and Signals, of 1 March 1973</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Agreement on Minimum Requirements for the Issue and Validity of Driving Permits (APC), of 1 April 1975</td>
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12. Also reaffirms the role and importance of the United Nations legal instruments on road safety, such as the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic,\(^6\) the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic,\(^7\) the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals\(^8\) and the 1958 and 1998 agreements of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, in facilitating road safety at the global, regional and national levels, and encourages Member States that have not yet done so to consider becoming contracting parties and, beyond accession, applying, implementing and promoting their provisions or safety regulations, as well as adhering to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;\(^9\)

13. Requests the World Health Organization and the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with other partners in the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration and other stakeholders, to continue the activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the objectives of the Decade of Action;

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\(^7\) Ibid., vol. 1042, No. 15705.
\(^8\) Ibid., vol. 1091, No. 16743.
\(^9\) Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.
58 Conventions, 1692 Contracting Parties

Number of Contracting Parties to UN Legal Instruments on Transport

- 2008: 1,598
- 2009: 1,631
- 2010: 1,656
- 2011: 1,681
- 2012: 1,686
- 2013: 1,692

UNECE - Transport Division
UNECE Transport Division

- International platform
- Regulatory
- Analytical
- Technical assistance

where global solutions are shaped for you
## 58 UN Transport Agreements/And Conventions Serviced by ECE

**Status at 27/02/2014**

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<th>Infrastructure networks</th>
<th>Road traffic and road safety</th>
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<th>Dangerous goods &amp; special cargoes</th>
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UNECE – a 360 degree approach to road safety

- Traffic rules
- Signs and signals
- Road infrastructure
  - Construction and periodic inspection of vehicles
  - Driving times and rest periods for professional drivers
- Dangerous goods
UNECE – a 360 degree approach to road safety

- Traffic rules
- Road signs and signals

- Driving times and rest periods for professional drivers
History

1909 Model T Ford

2014 Google car
**History**

- **1909 International Convention on Motor Traffic, Paris**
- **1926 International Convention relating to Road Traffic, Paris**
- **1926 International Convention relating to Motor Traffic, Paris**
- **1931 Convention concerning the Unification of Road Signs, Geneva**
- **1943 Convention on the Regulation of Inter-American Automotive Traffic, Washington D.C.**
- **1949 Convention on Road Traffic, Geneva**
- **1949 Protocol on Road Signs and Signals, Geneva**
- **1968 Convention on Road Traffic, Vienna**
- **1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals, Vienna**
- **1971 European Agreement Supplementing the Convention (Road Traffic), Geneva**
- **1971 European Agreement Supplementing the Convention (Road Signs), Geneva**
- **1973 Protocol on Road Markings, Additional to the European Agreement, Geneva**
Desirous of promoting the development and safety of international road traffic by establishing certain uniform rules.
1949 Convention on Road Traffic

95 Contracting Parties
1949 Convention on Road Traffic

Chapters:

1. General provisions
2. Rules of the road
3. Signs and signals
4. Provisions applicable to motor vehicles and trailers to international traffic
5. Drivers of motor vehicles in inter’l traffic
6. Provisions applicable to cycles in inter’l traffic
7. Final provisions
1949 Convention on Road Traffic

Annexes:

1. Additional provision concerning definitions of motor vehicles and cycle
2. Priority of passage
3. Registration number of vehicles in international traffic
4. Distinguishing signs of vehicles in international traffic
5. Identification marks of vehicles in international traffic
6. Technical conditions concerning the equipment of motor vehicles and trailers in inter’l traffic
7. Dimensions and weights of vehicles in inter’l traffic
8. Conditions to be fulfilled by drivers of motor vehicles in inter’l traffic
9. Model driving permit
10. Model international driving permit
To facilitate international road traffic and to increase road safety through the adoption of uniform traffic rules.
1968 Convention on Road Traffic

70 Contracting Parties

Convention on Road Traffic, of 8 November 1968
Algeria, Argentina, Australia,
Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso,
Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Congo, Cyprus,
Dominican Republic,
Ecuador, Egypt,
Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala,
Haiti, Holy See, Iceland, India,
Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan,
Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho,
Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Namibia,
New Zealand, Nigeria,
Papua New Guinea, Paraguay,
Republic of Korea, Rwanda,
Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic,
Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia,
Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United
States of America,
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of),
1968 Convention on Road Traffic

Chapters:

1. General provisions
2. Rules of the road
3. Conditions for the admission of motor vehicles and trailers to international traffic
4. Drivers of motor vehicles
5. Conditions for the admission of cycles and mopeds to international traffic
6. Final provisions
Annexes:

1. Exceptions to the obligations to admit motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic

2. Registration number and plate of motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic

3. Distinguishing signs of motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic

4. Identification marks of motor vehicles in international traffic

5. Technical conditions concerning motor vehicles and trailers

6. Domestic driving permit

7. International driving permit
International uniformity of road signs, signals and symbols and of road markings is necessary in order to facilitate international road traffic and to increase road safety.
1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals

62 Contracting Parties
Road sign categories

- Danger warning
- Regulatory
- Informative

UNECE - Transport Division
Obligations

1. When a sign, symbol, marking conveys certain information – cannot not use any other sign, symbol, marking to convey the same information

2. When there is no sign, symbol, marking conveying certain information - a CP can use any sign, symbol, marking provided
   a. it conforms to the system and
   b. endeavours to secure regional agreement

A new CP:
- 4 years to replace signs, symbols, markings that have a different meaning from that of the Convention
- 15 years to replace those signs, symbols, markings that do not conform to the Convention
1968 Conventions

- Admission to international traffic,
- A set of agreed road traffic rules
- Reference for national legislation
- Mutual recognition of vehicle certificates, driving permits
- Facilitation of international traffic, trade, tourism
- Enhanced road safety

- A system of agreed sign classification
- Over 200 reference signs
- Facilitation of international road traffic, trade, tourism
- Enhanced road safety
Accessions to UN conventions may yield substantial benefits to Contracting Parties
Potential future steps

- Consider the net benefits of acceding
- Undertake the necessary national legal steps/procedures for accession
- Deposit an instrument of accession with the UN Secretary-General
- Contact Robert.Nowak@unece.org for info and/or capacity building
- Traffic rules
- Road signs and signals

- Driving times and rest periods for professional drivers
EUROPEAN AGREEMENT

concerning

THE WORK OF CREWS OF VEHICLES
ENGAGED IN INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT
(AETR)

done at Geneva on 1 July 1970

The Contracting Parties,

Being desirous of promoting the development and improvement of the international transport of passengers and goods by road,

Convinced of the need to increase the safety of road traffic, to make regulations governing certain conditions of employment in international road transport in accordance with the principles of the International Labour Organisation, and jointly to adopt certain measures to ensure the observance of those regulations,

relatif

AU TRAVAIL DES ÉQUIPAGES DES VÉHICULES
EFFECTUANT DES TRANSPORTS INTERNATIONAUX
PAR ROUTE (AETR)

en date, à Genève, du 1er juillet 1970
To prevent professional drivers from driving excessive hours

To reduce road accidents due to fatigue

To avoid distortions in competitive conditions (uniform working conditions)
Digital tachograph

- Tachograph – memory of the vehicle
- Driver card – memory of the activities performed by the driver
- Four types of cards
- Outputs through printer, display or a connector
Article 14 currently restricts accession to UNECE member States

- Ongoing discussions to amend Article 14

51 Contracting Parties

European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR), of 1 July 1978 (Consolidated text dated 20 September 2010)
Road safety at UNECE - film

- FILM -
Saving Lives at
Level Crossings