Driving permits

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Background

Informal Document no. 3 prepared by the UN ECE WP1 Secretariat, with the collaboration of ISO and FIA, was presented during the 69th Session.

This document highlighted a series of issues and inconsistencies regarding International Driving Permits, and suggested options for a work plan outlining potential amendments to Annex 7 of the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic and Annex 10 of the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic.
Issues

IRREGULARITIES IN IDP ISSUANCE

In 2013, after requesting copies of the authoritative translations of the text of the IDP from CPs to the 1968 and 1949 Convention on Road Traffic, the Secretariat found that:

• Only a small number of CPs is fully compliant with Annex 7 of the 1968 Convention.
• A number of CPs were issuing IDPs pursuant to the wrong Convention.

Issues

INCONSISTENCIES REGARDING IDPs AND THEIR CONVENTIONS

The Secretariat also found that:
• The 1949 IDP model (as prescribed in Annex 10 of the 1949 Convention) has not been updated in the same manner as its corresponding Annex 7 in the 1968 Convention.
The Conventions differ as to the mandatory languages into which Model 3 left hand page has to be translated:

**1949 Convention:**
*all 6 official UN languages*

**1968 Convention:**
*FR, EN, ES and RU only*

“The outside and inside of the front cover shall conform, respectively, to model pages Nos. 1 and 2 below; they shall be printed in the national language, or in at least one of the national languages, of the issuing State. The last two inside pages shall be facing pages conforming to model No. 3 below; they shall be printed in French. The inside pages preceding these two pages shall repeat the first of them in several languages, which must include English, Russian and Spanish.”
Issues

LIMITATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMITS

• IDPs contain no security features:
  – they can be easily copied and altered
  – difficult to detect fraudulent permits from genuine permits

• There is no register or directory of national motor vehicle agency contacts in order to verify the validity of a presented DDP or IDP.

• At the present time, the cancellation or suspension of the DDP does not result in an automatic cancellation of an IDP.

Conclusion

REVISIT INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMITS

• IDPs have to be accompanied by a DDP (1968 Convention):
  – Reliance on the validity of DDP
  – Dependence on the features of DDP to counter alteration or fraudulent reproduction
  – IDP serves as translation of DDP

• Instead of issuing 2 documents, contracting parties should be encouraged to improve the quality of the DDP which could be used internationally together with a translation.
Examples of DDP

Kenya – hand written DDP to be replaced by plastic card

Ethiopia

DDP in Amharic

Translation of DDP for cross border travelling

Examples of DDPs for International Use

Namibia – suitable for international travel

Malawi – suitable for international travel