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Working Party on Noise

Sixty-third session

Geneva, 16-18 February 2016

Report of the Working Party on Noise on its sixty-third session

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I. Attendance

1. The Working Party on Noise (GRB) held its sixty-third session from 16 to 18 February 2016 in Geneva. The meeting was chaired by Mr. S. Ficheux (France). Experts from the following countries participated in the work following Rule 1(a) of the Rules of Procedure of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) (TRANS/WP.29/690, Amend. 1 and Amend. 2): Austria; Belgium; China; France; Germany; Hungary; India; Italy; Japan; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Russian Federation; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Experts from the European Commission (EC) participated. Experts from the following non-governmental organizations also participated: European Association of Automotive Suppliers (CLEPA); European Tyre and Rim Technical Organisation (ETRTO); International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences, Inc. (CAETS); International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA); International Motorcycling Federation (FIM); International Organization for Standardization (ISO); International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (OICA) and World Blind Union (WBU).

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2016/1

2. GRB considered and adopted the agenda.

III. Regulation No. 28 (Audible warning devices) (agenda item 2)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2016/2, Informal documents GRB-63-01, GRB-63-04, GRB-63-15, GRB-63-16, GRB-63-17

3. The expert from the Russian Federation introduced a revised proposal for amendments to Regulation No. 28 (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2016/2, GRB-63-01 and GRB-63-04). The proposal received comments from the experts of China, France and IMMA (GRB-63-17, GRB-63-16 and GRB-63-15, respectively). The experts from Japan and Spain indicated that they would need more time to study the proposal and its consequences and requested that its adoption be postponed to the next session. GRB invited all experts to transmit their comments, before the end of March 2016, to the expert from the Russian Federation who would update the proposal for consideration at the next session.

IV. Regulation No. 41 (Noise of motorcycles): Development (agenda item 3)

Documentation: Informal document GRB-63-10

4. The expert from IMMA proposed to clarify the test procedure in Annex 7 on Additional Sound Emission Provisions (ASEP) (GRB-63-10). GRB adopted the proposal (Annex II) and requested the secretariat to submit it to the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) and the Administrative Committee (AC.1) for consideration and vote at their June 2016 sessions as a draft Supplement 5 to the 04 series of amendments to Regulation No. 41.

V. Regulation No. 51 (Noise of M and N categories of vehicles) (agenda item 4)

A. Development

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2015/62, ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2016/4

5. GRB noted that the 03 series of amendments to Regulation No. 51 (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2015/62) had come into force on 20 January 2016 and that WP.29 and AC.1, at their March 2016 sessions, would consider a draft Supplement 1 to this series (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2016/4).

B. Additional sound emission provisions

Documentation: Informal document GRB-63-11

6. The expert from ISO informed GRB about the activities of his organization to contribute to the GRB work on revising the ASEP provisions (GRB-63-11).

VI. Regulation No. 59 (Replacement silencing systems) (agenda item 5)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2015/4, ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2015/63

7. GRB noted that the 02 series of amendments to Regulation No. 59 (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2015/4) and Supplement 1 (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2015/63) had come into force on 8 October 2015 and on 20 January 2016, respectively.

VII. Regulation No. 92 (Replacement exhaust silencing systems for motorcycles) (agenda item 6)

Documentation: Informal document GRB-63-09

8. GRB noted that the expert from EC had transmitted proposals for amendments to Regulation No. 92 (GRB-63-09) and agreed to consider them under agenda item 9, in conjunction with amendment proposals to Regulations Nos. 9 and 63.

VIII. Regulation No. 117 (Tyre rolling resistance, rolling noise and wet grip) (agenda item 7)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/2016/12,
ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/2016/14

9. GRB was informed that the Working Party on Brakes and Running Gear (GRRF), at its February 2016 session, had adopted amendment proposals to Regulation No. 117 with the aim to align some definitions and paragraphs with Regulations Nos. 30, 54 and 75. The adopted proposals also included a definition of "manufacturer" from the Consolidated Resolution on the Construction of Vehicles (R.E.3) and amended the tyre marking requirements.

10. The expert from the Netherlands presented several videos demonstrating tyre-rolling noise from trucks on a quiet road surface and recalled his proposal to reduce the limit values for tyres in Regulation No. 117. The expert from EC pointed out that, at this stage, EC could not express any opinion on this proposal and that internal discussions among EU member States should first be planned and held on the issue. The expert from the Netherlands informed GRB that his country had already sent a proposal to this extent to EC and the European Parliament.

IX. Collective amendments (agenda item 8)

Documentation: Informal document GRB-63-02

11. The expert from IMMA presented revised collective amendments to Regulations Nos. 9, 41, 63 and 92 to clarify that the provisions on fibrous materials are only applicable if such materials are in contact with exhaust gases (GRB-63-02). GRB adopted the proposals (Annexes III - VI) and requested the secretariat to submit them to WP.29 and AC.1 for consideration and vote at their June 2016 sessions as a draft Supplement 2 to the 07 series of amendments to Regulation No. 9, a draft Supplement 5 to the 04 series of amendments to Regulation No. 41, a draft Supplement 2 to the 02 series of amendments to Regulation No. 63 and a draft Supplement 1 to the 01 series of amendments to Regulation No. 92.

X. Exchange of information on national and international requirements on noise levels (agenda item 9)

Documentation: Informal documents GRB-63-03, GRB-63-05, GRB-63-07, GRB-63-08, GRB-63-09, GRB-63-18 and GRB-63-18-Add.1

12. The expert from CAETS delivered a presentation (GRB-63-05) in which he argued in favour of a holistic and long-term approach to sound urban planning with a view to preventing negative effects on health and well-being of populations.

13. The expert from EC informed GRB about a study on how to enhance the sound test requirements for mopeds, three-wheeled vehicles in Regulations Nos. 9, 63 and replacement exhaust silencing systems for L categories (L_1 to L_5) in Regulations Nos. 92 before the European Union (EU) could accept these Regulations (GRB-63-18). This study included public consultations and had been launched in response to frequent requests by citizens to improve the sound level of mopeds and three-wheeled vehicles as well as of replacement silencers for all L-category vehicles. On a similar note, the expert from EC reported about the ongoing public consultations on the EU Environmental Noise Directive¹ (GRB-63-18-Add.1).

14. Based on the outcome of the study, the expert from EC proposed a set of collective amendments to Regulations Nos. 9, 63 and 92 (GRB-63-03, GRB-63-05, GRB-63-07, GRB-63-08, GRB-63-09). The experts from France, Germany, IMMA and OICA delivered a number of remarks on these documents. GRB invited all experts to transmit their written comments, if any, to the expert from EC. Finally, GRB decided to continue consideration of these amendment proposals at its next session based on official documents to be submitted by the expert from EC.

¹ Available at <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/noise>

XI. Influence of road surface on tyre rolling sound emissions (agenda item 10)

15. The expert from the Netherlands indicated that one Dutch province had launched a labelling system for noise of road surfaces and that the national authorities were studying the system. He added that more details would be reported at the next session of GRB.

XII. Quiet road transport vehicles (agenda item 11)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2016/26, Informal documents GRB-63-12, GRB-63-13 and GRB-63-14

16. The experts from France and Germany, in their capacity of Co-chairs of the Informal Working Group (IWG) on a Quiet Road Transport Vehicles (QRTV) Regulation under 1958 Agreement, reported on the status of QRTV-related work (GRB-63-13). GRB noted that WP.29, at its March 2016 session, would consider a draft QRTV Regulation (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2016/26). At its November 2015 session, WP.29 decided to extend the mandate IWG on QRTV Regulation with a view to addressing concerns raised by WBU (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1118, paras. 24, 100-102), namely sound pressure levels, optional installation of the Acoustic Vehicle Alerting System (AVAS) pause switches and sound emissions when stationary. IWG on QRTV Regulation would also consider the possible extension of the scope of the QRTV regulation to vehicles of L categories.

17. To reflect the above new tasks, the experts from France and Germany proposed to update the Terms of Reference (ToR) of IWG on QRTV Regulation (GRB-63-14). GRB adopted the revised ToR, as reproduced in Annex VII.

18. The expert from the United States of America, in his capacity of Chair of IWG on QRTV Global Technical Regulation (GTR), informed GRB that the national Rule on AVAS would be published in his country in the coming months and that, following the publication, he would convene a session of IWG on QRTV GTR. He also indicated that the AVAS pause switch would be prohibited in the national Rule.

19. The expert from Japan pointed out that AVAS is of critical importance for the safety of cyclists and pedestrians, especially of people with impaired vision, and proposed amendments to the draft QRTV Regulation prohibiting the pause function (GRB-63-12). The expert from WBU supported this proposal and expressed his concerns about the pause switch that would allow defeat of the safety device. GRB noted that the wording of the proposal might be improved and invited the expert from Japan to submit an updated text as an official document for consideration at the next session.

XIII. Acronyms and abbreviations in Regulations under the responsibility of the Working Party on Noise (GRB) (agenda item 12)

Documentation: Informal documents WP.29-165-16 and GRB-63-09

20. GRB recalled the WP.29 request to introduce, in the medium term, an alternative acronym for "Replacement Exhaust Silencing System" (RESS) in Regulation No. 92 (WP.29-165-16). As a replacement, the experts from IMMA and OICA proposed a new term "Non-Original Replacement Exhaust Silencing System" (NORESS). GRB preliminary agreed with this proposal and noted that it was already used in the amendment proposal for Regulation No. 92 (GRB-63-09).

XIV. Proposal for amendments to the Consolidated Resolution on the Construction of Vehicles (agenda item 13)

21. GRB noted that a new Revision 4 of the Consolidated Resolution on the Construction of Vehicles (R.E.3) had recently been made available on the UNECE website.

XV. Development of the International Whole Vehicle Type Approval (IWVTA) system and involvement of the Working Parties (GRs) in it (agenda item 14)

22. The secretariat informed GRB about the recent activities of the Subgroup on UN Regulation No. 0 on IWVTA, about the progress on Revision 3 of the 1958 Agreement and about the development of an electronic database for the exchange of type approval documentation (DETA). GRB noted that Regulations Nos. 28 and 51 would be included in IWVTA.

XVI. Highlights of the November 2015 session of WP.29 (agenda item 15)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1118, Informal document GRB-63-06

23. The secretariat reported on the highlights of the 167th session of WP.29 (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1118, GRB-63-06).

XVII. Exchange of views regarding the future work of GRB (agenda item 16)

Documentation: Informal document GRB-62-08-Rev.2

24. The Chair presented a revised list of possible issues for the future GRB activities compiled at the second informal meeting in December 2015, together with written comments by some experts (GRB-62-08-Rev.2). GRB noted that some of these issues could be addressed directly by GRB while some others might require the establishment of informal working groups (IWG). In particular, IWGs were suggested in relation to Regulations Nos. 41 and 51 for the ASEP provisions and for pass-by noise tests of vehicle in-use (during roadside checks and periodic technical inspections). The experts from France and Germany preliminarily volunteered to chair, respectively, these groups. The experts from China, Japan, Hungary, EC, IMMA and OICA expressed their support for the creation of these IWGs. GRB decided to take a decision on their establishment at its next session.

25. The expert from EC delivered a number of additional comments on GRB-62-08-Rev.2. In particular, he indicated that the ASEP provisions (in a light version) and pass-by tests were also necessary for Regulations Nos. 9 and 63, as proposed in documents GRB-63-07 and GRB-63-08. For possible new sound level limits in Regulations Nos. 9, 63, 92 and 117, as well as for re-treaded tyres, he pointed out that such limits may only be proposed after discussions with the EU member States in due time, subject to internal planning and availability of resources.

26. The expert from the Russian Federation proposed to amend the list of possible future activities, in the long term, with the following issues: infrasound and preparing a definition of quiet vehicles. The expert from ETRTO was of the view that it would be premature to address re-treaded tyres and pointed out that GRRF should also be involved in considerations of this issue.

27. GRB invited the Chair to update the list based on the comments received and decided to revert to this issue at its next session.

XVIII. Other business (agenda item 17)

28. GRB was informed that Mr. Jean-Claude Noirhomme (ETRTO) would retire and no longer attend its sessions. GRB acknowledged his considerable contributions to the activities of the group and wished him a happy retirement.

29. Mr. Walter Nissler, Chief, Vehicle Regulations and Transport Innovations Section, informed GRB about the abolishment of several General Service (G) posts within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) as decided by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2015. He further explained that one of these G posts had been abolished in the Vehicle Regulations and Transport Innovations Section as of 1 January 2016, due to the imminent retirement of the current incumbent. He warned that this unfortunate situation might affect the services provided by the Section.

30. Some experts wondered whether it would be possible to move the autumn session of GRB to the second week of September. The Chair invited the secretariat to look into this issue, taking into account the annual schedule of meetings of WP.29 and its subsidiary bodies.

XIX. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session (agenda item 18)

31. For its sixty-fourth session, scheduled to be held in Geneva from 5 (starting at 2.30 p.m.) to 7 (concluding at 5.30 p.m.) September 2016, GRB noted that the deadline for the submission of official documents to the secretariat would be 10 June 2016, twelve weeks prior to the session. The following provisional agenda was adopted:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Regulation No. 28 (Audible warning devices).
3. Regulation No. 41 (Noise of motorcycles): Development.
4. Regulation No. 51 (Noise of M and N categories of vehicles):
 - (a) Development;
 - (b) Additional sound emission provisions.
5. Regulation No. 59 (Replacement silencing systems).
6. Regulation No. 92 (Replacement exhaust silencing systems for motorcycles).
7. Regulation No. 117 (Tyre rolling noise and wet grip adhesion).
8. Collective amendments.
9. Exchange of information on national and international requirements on noise levels.

10. Influence of road surface on tyre rolling sound emissions.
11. Quiet road transport vehicles.
12. Acronyms and abbreviations in Regulations under the responsibility of GRB.
13. Proposal for amendments to the Consolidated Resolution on the Construction of Vehicles.
14. Development of the International Whole Vehicle Type Approval (IWVTA) system and involvement of the Working Parties (GRs) in it.
15. Highlights of the November 2015 session of WP.29.
16. Exchange of views regarding the future work of GRB.
17. Other business.
18. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session.
19. Election of officers

Annex I

List of informal documents (GRB-63-...) distributed during the session

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Transmitted by</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Follow-up</i>
1	Russian Federation	2	E	Proposal for Supplement 5 to Regulation No. 28	(a)
2	IMMA	8	E	Proposal for amendments to Regulations Nos. 9, 41, 63 and 92	(d)
3	European Commission	9	E	Amendment proposals for Regulations Nos. 9, 63 and 92	(a)
4	Russian Federation	2	E	Proposal for correction to ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2016/2	(a)
5	CAETS	9	E	Urban sound planning	(a)
6-Rev.1	Secretariat	15	E	General information and WP.29 highlights	(a)
7	European Commission	9	E	Amendment proposal for Regulation No. 63	(b)
8	European Commission	9	E	Amendment proposal for Regulation No. 9	(b)
9	European Commission	9	E	Amendment proposal for Regulation No. 92	(b)
10	IMMA	3	E	Proposal for amendment to Regulation No. 41	(d)
11	ISO	4	E	Technical comments on Annex 7 to the 03 series of amendments to Regulation No. 51	(a)
12	Japan	11	E	Proposal for amendments to the QRTV Regulation	(b)
13	IWG QRTV	11	E	Status of work on the QRTV Regulation	(a)
14	Chair	11	E	Revised Terms of Reference of IWG QRTV	(d)
15	IMMA	2	E	Proposal for amendments to ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2016/2	(a)
16	France	2	E	Information and comments on ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2016/2	(a)
17	China	2	E	Future development of Regulation No. 28	(a)
18	European Commission	9	E	Study to enhance Regulations Nos. 9, 63 and 92 with respect to sound test requirements	(a)
18-Add.1	European Commission	9	E	Consultation on the evaluation of the Environmental Noise Directive	(a)

Notes:

- (a) Consideration completed or superseded.
- (b) Continue consideration at the next session with an official symbol.
- (c) Continue consideration at the next session as informal document.
- (d) Adopted and to be submitted to WP.29.

Annex II

Adopted amendments to the 04 series of amendments to Regulation No. 41

Annex 7, paragraph 2.5., add a note at the end to read:

"2.5. ASEP control range

...

Note: If the vehicle has more than one gear, the first gear shall not be used."

Annex III

Adopted amendments on fibrous materials to the 07 series of amendments to Regulation No. 9

Annex 3, paragraph 5.1.1., amend to read:

"5.1.1. Fibrous absorbent material shall be asbestos-free and may be used in the construction of silencers only if suitable devices ensure that the fibrous absorbent material is kept in place for the whole time that the silencer is being used and the exhaust or silencing system meets the requirements of any one of paragraphs 5.1.2., 5.1.3., ~~or~~ 5.1.4. **or 5.1.5.** below."

Annex 3, add a new paragraph 5.1.5. to read:

"**5.1.5. Exhaust gases are not in contact with fibrous materials and fibrous materials are not under the influence of pressure variations.**"

Annex IV

Adopted amendments on fibrous materials to the 04 series of amendments to Regulation No. 41

Annex 5, paragraph 1., amend to read:

- "1. Fibrous absorbent material shall be asbestos-free and may be used in the construction of the exhaust or silencing system only if suitable devices ensure that the fibrous material is kept in place for the whole time that the exhaust or silencing system is being used and the exhaust or silencing system meets the requirements of any one of paragraphs 1.1., 1.2., ~~and~~ 1.3. **or 1.4.**"

Annex 5, insert a new paragraph 1.4. to read:

- "1.4. Exhaust gases are not in contact with fibrous materials and fibrous materials are not under the influence of pressure variations."**

Annex V

Adopted amendments on fibrous materials to the 02 series of amendments to Regulation No. 63

Annex 3, paragraph 5.1.1., amend to read:

"5.1.1. Fibrous absorbent material shall be asbestos-free and may be used in the construction of silencers only if suitable devices ensure that the fibrous absorbent material is kept in place for the whole time that the silencer is being used and it meets the requirements of any one of paragraphs 5.1.2., 5.1.3., ~~or~~ 5.1.4. **or 5.1.5.** below."

Annex 3, add a new paragraph 5.1.5. to read:

"**5.1.5. Exhaust gases are not in contact with fibrous materials and fibrous materials are not under the influence of pressure variations.**"

Annex VI

Adopted amendments on fibrous materials to the 01 series of amendments to Regulation No. 92

Annex 5, paragraph 1., amend to read:

- "1. Fibrous absorbent material shall be asbestos-free and may be used in the construction of silencers only if suitable devices ensure that the fibrous absorbent material is kept in place for the whole time that the silencer is being used and it meets the requirements of any one of sections 2, 3, ~~4~~ **or 5** according to the manufacturer's choice."

Annex 5, add a new paragraph 5. to read:

- "5. **Exhaust gases are not in contact with fibrous materials and fibrous materials are not under the influence of pressure variations.**"

Annex VII

Revised Terms of Reference of the Informal Working Group (IWG) on a Quiet Road Transport Vehicles (QRTV) Regulation under the 1958 Agreement

A. Introduction

1. At the 167th session of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), GRB proposed to continue its work on QRTV with a view to addressing concerns raised by the World Blind Union (WBU). WP.29 decided to extend the mandate IWG on QRTV Regulation. WP.29 agreed to consider the draft proposal for a Regulation on QRTV at its March 2016 session and decided to consider additional amendments at a later stage, addressing the concerns raised (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1118, paras. 24, 100-102).
2. This proposal establishes revised Terms of Reference of IWG on the QRTV Regulation under the 1958 Agreement in parallel to developing a Global Technical Regulation (GTR) on QRTV.
3. The aim of the Group is to address the concerns raised by stakeholders, e.g. WBU, and to propose amendments to the QRTV Regulation, if necessary.
4. IWG on the QRTV Regulation shall work in close cooperation with IWG on QRTV GTR.

B. Objective of IWG on QRTV Regulation

5. The scope and purpose of the Regulation are given in ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2015/9. This Regulation which initially cover electric and hybrid electric vehicles of categories M and N may be extended to L categories.
6. IWG on the QRTV Regulation shall consider topics such as sound pressure levels, installation of Acoustic Vehicle Alerting System (AVAS) pause switches and sound emissions when stationary.
7. IWG on the QRTV Regulation shall take into account documents developed by IWG on QRTV GTR.
8. IWG on the QRTV Regulation shall report to GRB.

C. Rules of Procedure

9. IWG on the QRTV Regulation shall be open to all participants of GRB. However, it is recommended that a maximum of two technical experts per country and organization participate in this Group.
10. IWG will be chaired by France and Germany and co-chaired by Japan. OICA will act as Secretary.
11. The working language shall be English.

12. All documents and/or proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary of IWG in a suitable electronic format at least one week before the session.
13. The agenda and the latest draft document shall be made available on the dedicated UNECE website.

D. Timeline

14. The aim of IWG is to present, if necessary, an informal document for consideration at the sixty-fifth session of GRB in February 2017. The final objective of IWG is to present a working document for consideration at the sixty-sixth session of GRB in September 2017.

Annex VIII

GRB informal groups

<i>Informal group</i>	<i>Chair(s) and Co-chair(s)</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Expiry date of the mandate</i>
Quiet road transport vehicles (QRTV) for GTR	Mr. Ezana Wondimneh (USA) Tel: +1 202 366 21 17 E-mail: Ezana.wondimneh@dot.gov Mr. Ichiro Sakamoto (Japan) Tel:+81 422 41 66 18 Fax:+81 422 76 86 04 E-mail: i-saka@ntsel.go.jp	Mr. Andreas Vosinis (Directorate General Growth, European Commission) Tel:+ 32 2 2992116 Email: andreas.vosinis@ec.europa.eu	December 2016
QRTV Regulation under 1958 Agreement	Mr. Bernd Schüttler (Germany) Tel: +49 228 99300 4372 Fax: +49 228 99300807 4372 E-mail: bernd.schuettler@bmvi.bund.de Mr. Louis-Ferdinand Pardo (France) Tel: +33 1 69 80 17 66 Fax: +33 1 69 80 17 09 E-mail: louis-ferdinand.pardo@utaceram.com Mr. Ichiro Sakamoto (Japan) Tel:+81 422 41 66 18 Fax:+81 422 76 86 04 E-mail: i-saka@ntsel.go.jp	Mr. Hanns-Peter Bietenbeck (OICA) Tel: +49 221 903 24 09 Fax: +49 221 903 25 46 E-mail: hbietenb@ford.com	December 2016