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Working Party on Road Traffic Safety  
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**AMENDMENTS TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1968 CONVENTIONS ON  
ROAD TRAFFIC AND ON ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS AND THE 1971 EUROPEAN  
AGREEMENTS SUPPLEMENTING THEM**

Definitions of mopeds and motorcycles

Transmitted by IMMA (on behalf of the small group)

**Parts of the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic and the European Agreement affected by  
the new definitions of motorcycles, mopeds, tricycles and quadricycles**

1. Introduction
- 1.1 WP.1 activities

At the 37<sup>th</sup> session of WP.1 in September 2001, the report of the small group on the definitions of mopeds and motorcycles was discussed (TRANS/WP.1/2001/34). It was agreed that before making a final decision on which definitions to include in the European Agreement, the implications for the texts of the Road Traffic Convention and the European Agreement should be studied.

This document summarises the issues to be addressed if the new definitions are to be introduced. Part 1 discusses the separation of tricycles from motorcycles and Part 2 deals with the quadricycles. The format of the document is as follows:

GE.02-

1. The Article reference
2. **X:** (the paragraph number) and a summary of the content
3. *Comments*

Once the general direction for the amendments is agreed, the texts can be prepared.

## 1.2 General issues

### 1.2.1 Mopeds as motorcycles

The following countries treat mopeds as motorcycles: Brazil, Bulgaria, Cuba, Denmark (if design speed exceeds 30 km/h), Germany, Indonesia, Monaco, Morocco, Thailand, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. Therefore, under the Convention mopeds in all other countries are not considered as motorcycles and so they are not "power-driven vehicles" or "motor vehicles". They are dealt with under Article 44.

### 1.2.2 Quadricycles

The EU divides quadricycles into classes which are equivalent to mopeds (light quadricycles) and to motorcycles (quadricycles).

There are technical construction requirements for both types of quadricycle.

For the driving permit, the EU requirements only apply to quadricycles, which are classed as B1 vehicles but which Member States can allow to be driven on any motorcycle permit.

At present, mopeds and light quadricycles are not part of the EU driving permit system, so it is as if the EU Member States have declared, for the purposes of the Vienna Convention, that they do not consider them to be motorcycles. This document therefore considers light quadricycles as being covered by Article 44.

## **Part 1: Motorcycles, mopeds and tricycles**

The paragraphs considered are those which refer to motorcycles or mopeds, as well as any others which could have a special significance. Because "tricycles" have always been included in the Convention (as three-wheeled motorcycles) the issue is really only one of making sure that the text includes the new terminology.

### Article 1 Definitions

**m:** - moped

**n:** - motorcycle

*Changes proposed in WP.1/2001/34*

### Article 11 Overtaking

**8:** overtaking two-wheeled vehicles in intersections

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

#### Article 16 Change of direction

**1 (b):** possible special rules for mopeds (e.g. turning across the traffic)

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**2:** allowing mopeds on cycle tracks to pass

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

#### Article 20: Pedestrians

**5:** the side of the road to be used when pushing mopeds or motorcycles

*This should be extended to the new category of tricycles, which were previously covered.*

#### Article 23: Standing and Parking

**2(b):** two-wheelers allowed to park abreast on the carriageway

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions, the text of the European Agreement satisfactorily covers the situation of the parking of motorcycles in rows, perpendicular to the kerb.*

**5:** domestic legislation on signalling of stationary vehicles on the carriageway, exemptions for two-wheeled vehicles from carrying a warning triangle

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

*It is assumed that mopeds and motorcycles are either too narrow to impede the traffic, if stationary, or can be easily removed from the carriageway by the rider. In principle motorcycles with sidecars and tricycles would have to display a warning triangle if left on the road but equally, in practice, these vehicles can be pushed off the carriageway by their rider.*

#### Article 25: Motorways and similar roads

**1(a):** prohibition of mopeds

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

#### Article 27: Special rules for cyclists, moped drivers and motorcyclists

**2:** holding the handlebars

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**3:** carrying passengers

*The requirement needs to be updated. Mopeds mostly have two places and separate saddles are not common for pillion riders. This should refer to a seat.*

**4:** use of cycle tracks

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

#### Article 32: Use of Lamps

In general: the conditions of use

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Specifically:

**6:** Required daytime use of the passing lamp or running lamps on motorcycles

*Should be extended to the new category of tricycles, which were previously covered.*

**10 c):** parking without lamps for two-wheeled vehicles

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Article 35: Registration of vehicles

**1(a):** requirement for motor vehicles in international traffic to be registered

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Article 36: Registration number

**1:** motorcycles need only display a registration plate to the rear

*Should be extended to the new category of tricycles, which were previously covered.*

Article 41: Driving permits for motor vehicles

In general: the requirement to have a permit, its validity and the recognition by other contracting parties

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Article 44: Mopeds not treated as motorcycles

**2:** in the countries which do not treat mopeds as motorcycles, mopeds in international traffic shall have:

- ?? two independent brakes
- ?? an audible warning device/bell
- ?? exhaust silencer
- ?? at least front and rear position lamps
- ?? the country identifying symbol

**3:** mopeds treated as motorcycles shall conform to Annex 5

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Article 54: ratification or accession: the status of mopeds

**2:** countries shall declare if they will treat mopeds as motorcycles

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Annex 1: Exceptions to the obligation to admit motor vehicles in international traffic

**3(a):** motorcycles with trailers may be refused

*Needs revision, the EU allows trailers to be towed by motorcycles.*

**5:** moped and motorcycle riders without helmets may be refused

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**6:** a motorcycle and sidecar, a three- or a four-wheeled vehicle may be obliged to carry a warning triangle

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Annex 2: Registration number

**2:** visibility of motorcycle registration plates from less than 40m.

*Should be extended to the new category of tricycles, which were previously covered.*

Annex 3: Distinguishing sign

**4:** size of the sign for motorcycles

*Should be extended to the new category of tricycles, which were previously covered.*

Annex 4: identification marks on vehicles

**1c):** mopeds shall be marked with the cylinder capacity and the mark "CM"

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Annex 5: Technical conditions for motor vehicles

Chapter 1: Braking

**A:** braking of motor vehicles other than motorcycles

*The exemption should be extended to the new category of tricycles, which were previously covered.*

**D:** braking of motorcycles and tricycles

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Chapter 2: Lighting

21-31: requirements for motor vehicles other than motorcycles

**21:** *The exemption should be extended to the new category of tricycles, which were previously covered.*

**22:** *The exemption should be extended to the new category of tricycles, which were previously covered.*

**23:** *No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**24:** *No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**27:** *No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**31:** *No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

32-42 ter are for motorcycles and mopeds unless they are exempted at national level

**32:** passing and driving lamps

*Should be extended to the new category of tricycles, which were previously covered.*

**33:** front position lamps

*Should be extended to the new category of tricycles, which were previously covered.*

**34:** rear position lamps on two-wheeled motorcycles

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**35:** rear reflector on two-wheeled motorcycles

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**36:** stop lamps on two-wheeled motorcycles

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**37:** lamps on sidecars

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**38:** requirements for three-wheeled vehicles

*Introduce the term "tricycle". In principle no change is needed but in practice those tricycles which are the front half of a motorcycle and rear of a car would have to have an even number of lamps at the front. This is already the case.*

**39:** direction indicators, except for mopeds

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**40:** Front fog lamps: one for motorcycles

*Should be extended to the new category of tricycles, which were previously covered.*

**42 ter:** hazard warning signal not required for motorcycles

*Should be extended to the new category of tricycles, which were previously covered.*

### Chapter 3: other requirements

**52:** reverse gear for vehicles over 400kg

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**55:** Speedometer for all vehicles with a  $V_{max} > 40$ km/h, possible exceptions for categories of motorcycles and light vehicles

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**59:** Ignition not to cause radio interference

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

### Annex 6: Domestic driving permit

**5:** Categories of vehicle

*Need to include a tricycle category as a sub-category of B1.*

## **Part 2: Quadricycles**

The paragraphs considered are those which could have a special significance for the new categories of quadricycle.

### Article 1 Definitions

**m:** - moped

**n:** - motorcycle

*Insert new definitions of quadricycles*

*Changes proposed in WP.1/2001/34*

### Article 23: Standing and Parking

**5:** signalling of stationary vehicles on the carriageway (e.g. warning triangles), exemptions for two-wheeled vehicles

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

### Article 25: Motorways and similar roads

**1(a):** prohibition of mopeds

*Light quadricycles should be added to the list of prohibited vehicles.*

### Article 27: Special rules for cyclists, moped drivers and motorcyclists

*In general this Article applies to the special case of two-wheelers and therefore does not need to be altered for quadricycles. For example, the carriage of passengers is covered by Article 30 bis, the requirement for cars.*

**4:** use of cycle tracks

*In view of their restricted performance, countries may want to be able to treat light quadricycles in the same way as mopeds.*

Article 32: Use of Lamps

In general: the conditions of use

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions. As four-wheeled vehicles, quadricycles should meet the same use requirements as cars.*

Specifically:

**6:** required daytime use of the passing lamp or running lamps on motorcycles

*In view of their restricted performance this could be extended to light quadricycles. For the larger category the rules should be as for cars.*

Article 35: Registration of vehicles

**1(a):** requirement for motor vehicles in international traffic to be registered

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Article 36: Registration number

**1:** motorcycles need only display a registration plate to the rear

*No change needed because of the new definitions.*

Article 41: Driving permits for motor vehicles

In general: the requirement to have a permit, its validity and the recognition by other contracting parties

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Article 44: Mopeds not treated as motorcycles

**2:** in the countries which do not treat mopeds as motorcycles, mopeds in international traffic shall have:

- ?? two independent brakes
- ?? an audible warning device/bell
- ?? exhaust silencer
- ?? at least front and rear position lamps
- ?? the country identifying symbol

**3:** mopeds treated as motorcycles shall conform to Annex 5

*This Article will depend on the decision in principle concerning light quadricycles being treated as mopeds. If they are to be treated as mopeds, they should be included in the scope of Article 44.*

Article 54: ratification or accession: the status of mopeds

**2:** countries shall declare if they will treat mopeds as motorcycles

*Countries should decide if they want to treat light quadricycles as mopeds, i.e. not as motorcycles.*

Annex 1: Exceptions to the obligation to admit motor vehicles in international traffic

**3(a):** motorcycles with trailers may be refused

*Needs revision, the EU allows trailers.*

**5:** moped and motorcycle riders without helmets may be refused

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**6:** a motorcycle and sidecar, a three- or a four-wheeled vehicle may be obliged to carry a warning triangle

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Annex 2: Registration number

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Annex 3: Distinguishing sign

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Annex 4: Identification marks on vehicles

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

Annex 5: Technical conditions for vehicles

*A decision in principle is required on whether or not quadricycles should be included in the paragraphs referring to cars or in the same way as tricycles i.e. as a special form of motorcycle. Quadricycles can then be included/excluded in the appropriate sections.*

Chapter 1: Braking

**A:** braking of vehicles other than motorcycles

Requires service (all wheels), parking and emergency (at least on one wheel per side) braking (the parking brake is not the emergency brake) and a minimum of two controls

*The change would have to exclude quadricycles in the text (depending on the decision in principle).*

**D:** braking of motorcycles

Requires two independent brakes and, for tricycles, a parking brake

*The change would have to include quadricycles in the text (depending on the decision in principle).*

Chapter 2: Lighting

21-31: requirements for motor vehicles other than motorcycles

**21:** 2 driving lamps: *Could be optional for light quadricycles*

**22:** 2 passing lamps: *Should cover quadricycles so no changes are needed*

**23:** 2 front position lamps: *Should cover quadricycles so no changes are needed*

**24:** 2 rear position lamps: *Should cover quadricycles so no changes are needed*

**25:** lighting for the rear number-plate: *Should cover quadricycles so no changes are needed (unless they are not treated as motorcycles)*

**27:** 2 rear reflectors: *Should cover quadricycles so no changes are needed*

**31:** 2 stop lamps: *Should cover quadricycles so no changes are needed.*

**38:** requirements for three-wheeled vehicles



*This paragraph could be amended to include quadricycles and so specifically require the lamps specified in paragraphs 21-31. This would require less textual amendment than if each paragraph was changed.*

**39:** direction indicators, except for mopeds

*Should cover quadricycles so no changes are needed.*

**40:** Front fog lamps: if fitted, 2 for four-wheelers

*Should cover quadricycles so no changes are needed.*

**42 ter:** hazard warning signal required for four-wheelers

*Should cover quadricycles so no changes are needed.*

### Chapter 3: other requirements

**52:** reverse gear for vehicles over 400kg

*Need to include quadricycles in the exemptions*

**55:** Speedometer for all vehicles with a  $V_{max} > 40$ km/h, possible exceptions for categories of motorcycles and light vehicles

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

**59:** ignition not to cause radio interference

*No changes are needed because of the new definitions.*

### Annex 6: Domestic driving permit

**5:** Categories of vehicle

*Need to include a quadricycle category as a sub-category of B1*

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