

**Draft Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Task Force on Studded Tyres
March 18, 2021 starting at 2:00 pm ending at 4:00 pm CET**

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed the participants offering general information about the meeting.

The attendance list is attached to this document.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Approval of the minutes from 3rd Task Force meeting on Studded Tyres (TFST-03-03)

<https://wiki.unece.org/display/trans/TF+ST+-+3rd+session%2C+October+2020>

The minutes of the previous session were adopted.

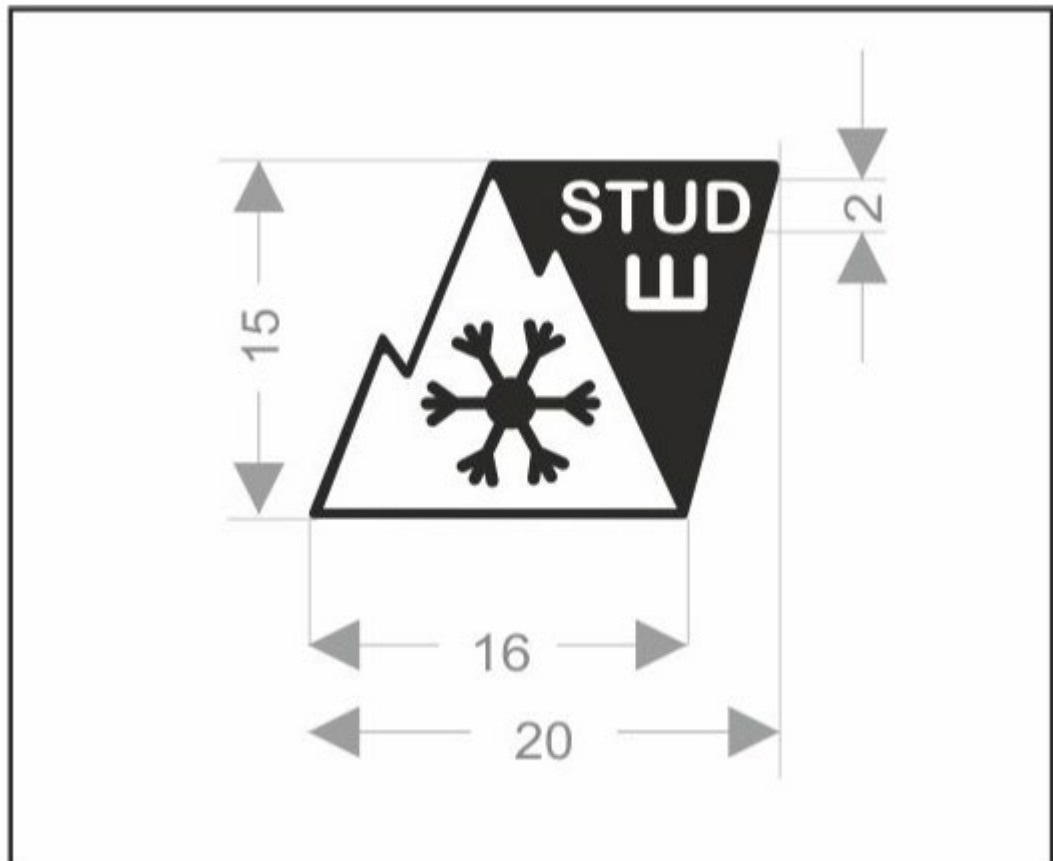
4. Proposal for changes to the draft new regulation for studded tyres, according to the comments received at the 73rd GRBP in January 2021

- New snow grip marking for studded tyres

The Task Force was reminded that in the 73rd meeting of the GRBP, the European Commission informed that they will examine the draft by the next meeting (Sept 2021) and Germany expressed that they cannot support the use of the *Snow Grip Marking* in the draft regulation of studded tyres as intended although otherwise the draft regulation was acceptable. Germany

also expressed that they appreciate the new paragraph 1.2. included in the draft regulation.

The Task Force then proceeded in assessing the suitability of an alternative, dedicated *Snow Grip Marking for Studded Tyres* of which the Chair and Secretary provided a draft version (version 0.) – below:



The following proposals and remarks were made by the Task Force:

- the concept and visual idea is acceptable
- text/background (in the right-hand-side new triangle) should be allowed to be embossed either inwards or outwards from the tyre surface, at least to be looked at both versions
- good to maintain "family resemblance" with the Ice Grip Marking
- to be looked at versions with and without the word "STUD"
- to be looked at version with enlarged font size, with and without the word "STUD"
- to be added "molded in or out" into the text
- German MoT should be consulted about the acceptance of this marking concept
- to be added that the design dimensions are minimum dimensions
- to be checked if remolding of existing molds is possible
 - o *[Secretary's question: Why is this checking necessary because these two markings indicate that the tyres had been type approved*

according to different regulations and should not have the same marking?]

- to be looked also a version where the new triangle is drawn only with a line

Secretary promised to provide all these variants together with the meeting minutes to be assessed in the next Task Force meeting. *[Attached to these minutes: Dedicated Snow Grip Marking for Studded Tyres – Versions based on the comments expressed by the Experts in the GRBP Task Force on Studded Tyres, March 18th, 2021.]*

5. Workshop regarding the identified issues

The Chair and Secretary presented an idea to hold a dedicated workshop to try to solve the issue with Germany not accepting the use of the Snow Grip Marking, or the possible acceptance of the dedicated *Snow Grip Marking of Studded Tyres*. The Task Force discussed on the matter agreeing with the idea and further elaborating the concept as follows:

- participants from the Task Force
- Chairman of the GRBP
- representatives of those Contracting Parties who would have a legal issue with the Snow Grip Marking and studded tyres
- time constraint: final date to submit new Working Document June 28th, 2021 *[Secretary's remark: the correct date is June 23rd, 2021]*
- it is not necessary to obtain a full majority for approval of a new regulation, a 4/5 majority is sufficient but might require that the EU Member States vote independently and not through the European Commission; Chair and Secretary to contact the EC and ask about this possibility *[Checked: not possible.]*

6. Other business

the next meeting was scheduled to be held on May 6th, 2021 at 14:00-16:00 CET as a Teams-meeting.

Attachments:

- Attendance list TF ST March 18th, 2021
- Dedicated Snow Grip Marking for Studded Tyres – Versions based on the comments expressed by the Experts in the GRBP Task Force on Studded Tyres, March 18th, 2021.

Attendance list TF ST March 18th, 2021:

- Kinisjärvi, Reetta (Chair)
- Sunnari, Jarmo (Secretary)
- Becherer, Thomas
- Bocharov, Andrei
- DiMaggio, Antonello
- Funaro, Italo
- Haas, Laurent
- Kamath, T.C.
- Lyu, Jian
- Sjøvold, Jannicke
- Tosca, Marco
- Wang, Xiaodong
- Xu, Tianchu



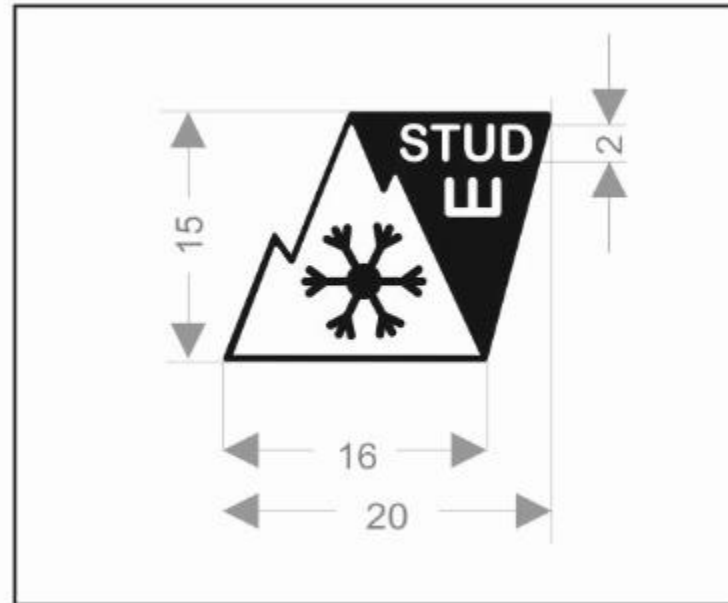
Dedicated Snow
Grip Marking for Stu

Dedicated Snow Grip Marking for Studded Tyres

Versions based on the comments expressed by the Experts in the
GRBP Task Force on Studded Tyres, March 18th, 2021.

Original version of the dedicated Snow Grip Marking for Studded Tyres

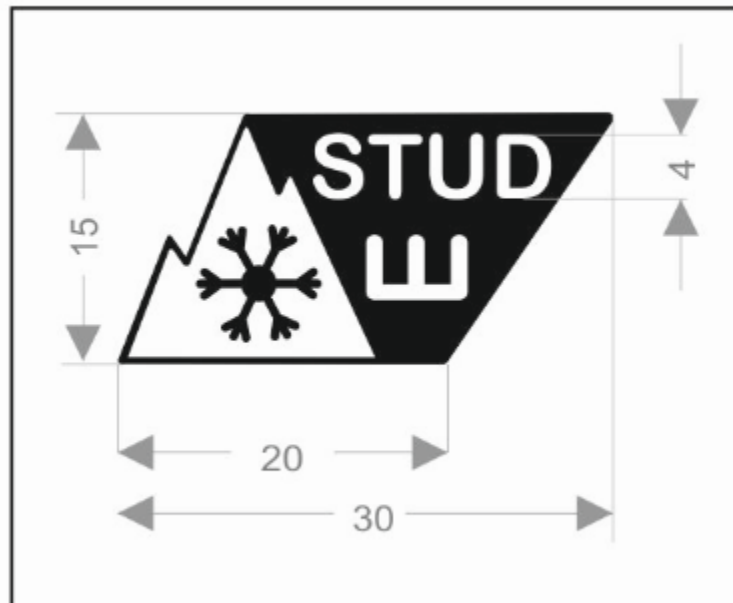
Version 0.



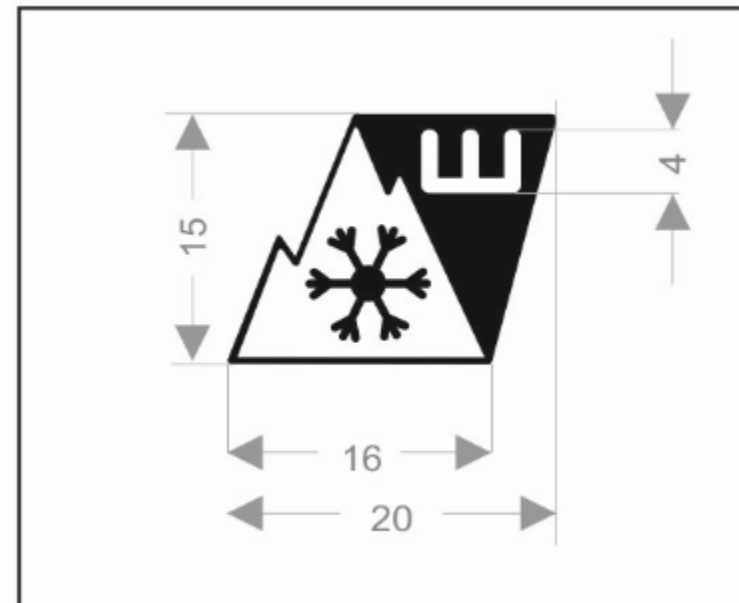
Versions with:

- font size enlarged to 4
- word "STUD" removed

Version 1.



Version 1.1



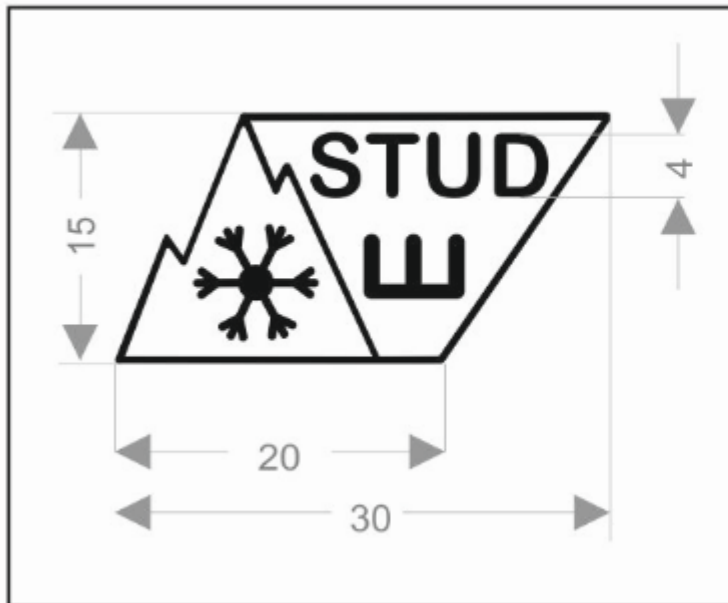
Conclusion:

- font size 4 mm is clearly too large with the word "STUD"

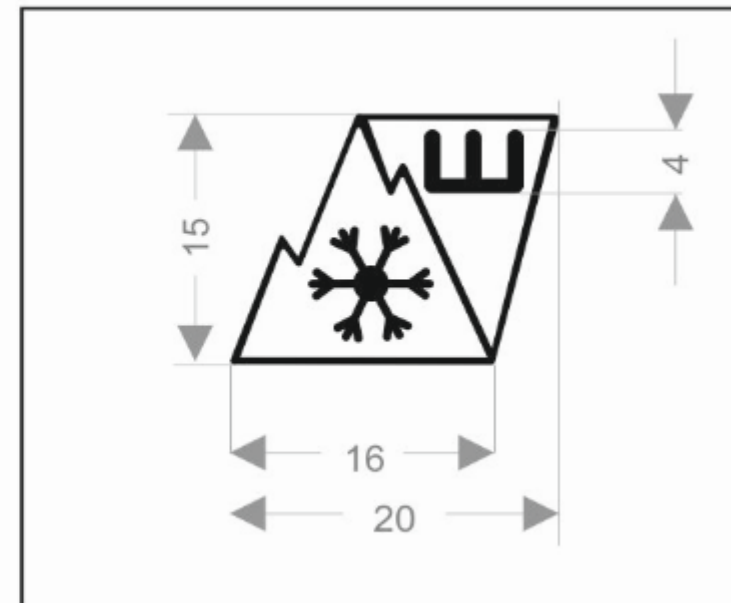
Versions with:

- font size enlarged to 4
- word "STUD" removed
- addendum part in the marking embossed inwards instead of outwards

Version 2.



Version 2.1



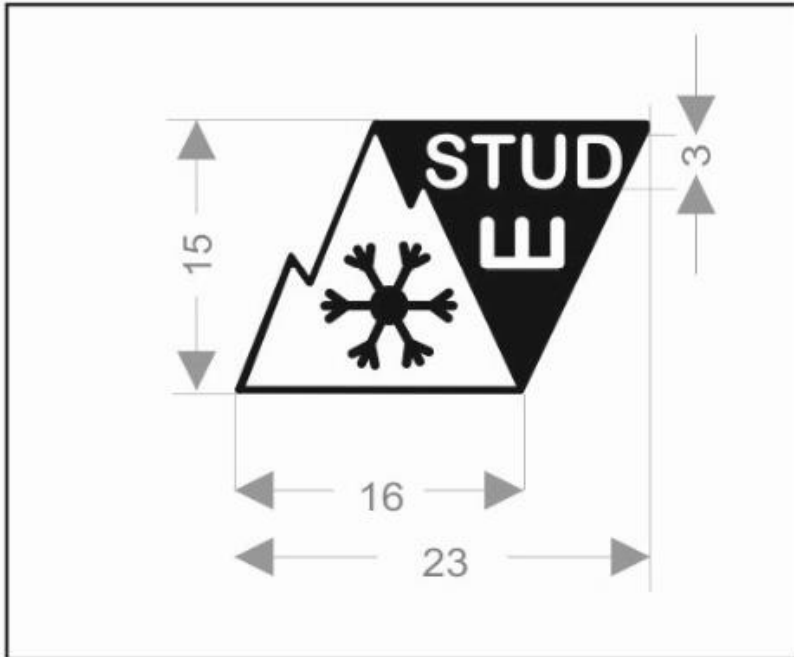
Conclusions:

- font size 4 mm is too large with the word "STUD"
- embossing inwards is a relevant option

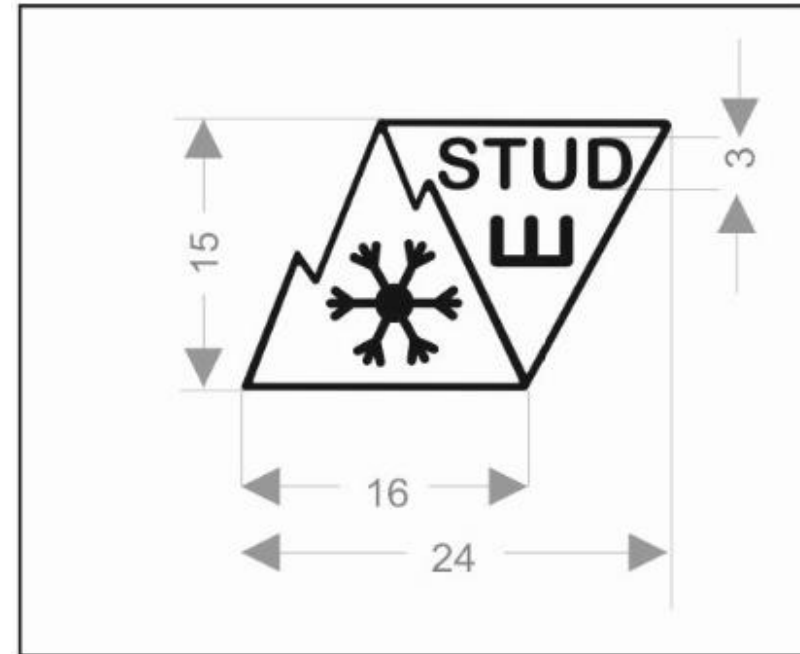
Versions with:

- font size adjusted to 3
- word "STUD" returned
- addendum part in the marking embossed in both ways (inwards and outwards)

Version 3.



Version 3.1

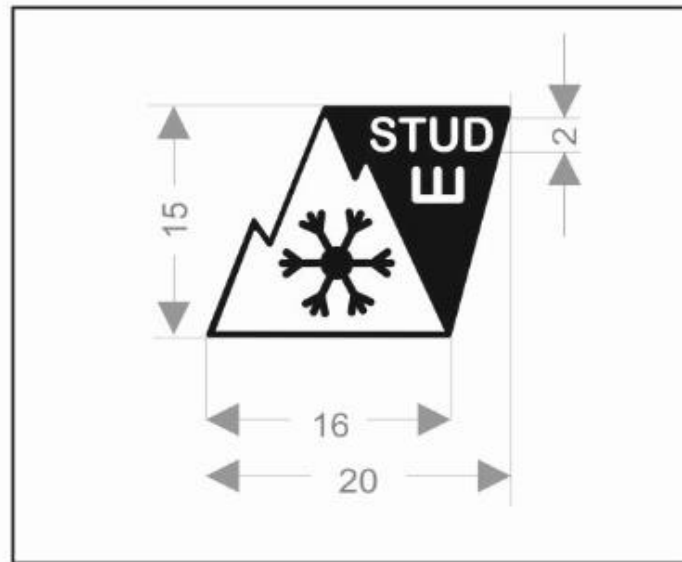


Conclusions:

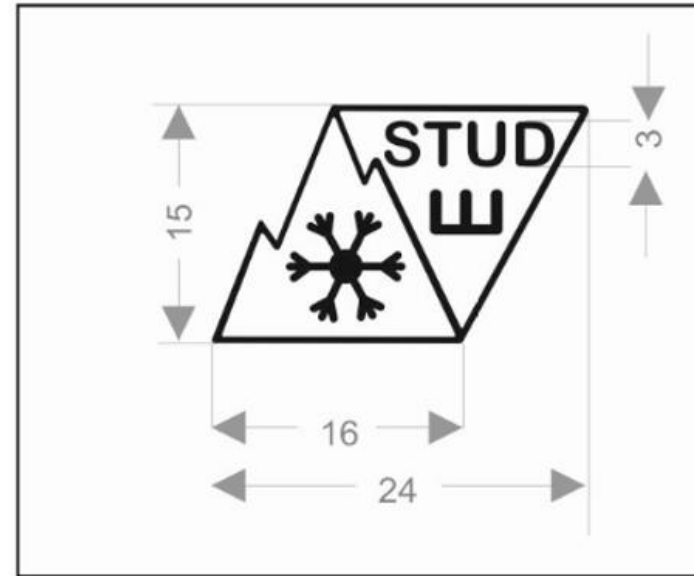
- font size 3 mm seems acceptable
- embossing addendum part inwards require extending the width from 23 to 24 mm

Comparison of the original and the latest versions

Version 0.



Version 3.1



Conclusions:

- font size 3 mm extends the width of the marking by 4 mm with a minimal benefit for readability.
 - Question: is it really practical to make the font size enlargement at all?
- embossing addendum part inwards require extending the width.
 - Question: does the inward embossing bring such added value that extending the width is justified?
 - Should not manufacturers be left with the freedom to choose whether emboss inwards or outwards?

Visualization of the direction of embossing of the addendum part

(outwards from the surface/inwards into the surface)

