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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Inland Transport Committee

**World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations**

**Working Party on Lighting and Light-Signalling**

**Eighty-fifth session**

Geneva, 26-29 October 2021

Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda

**UN Regulation No. 48 (Installation of lighting and light-signalling devices):**

**Proposals for new series of amendments to UN Regulation No. 48**

Proposal for a new [09] series of amendments to UN Regulation No. 48

Submitted by the expert from [the Special Interest Group on UN Regulation No. 48-09[[1]](#footnote-2)\* ]

The text reproduced below was prepared by the expert from R48-09 Special Interest group with the aim to add the parking condition in the scope of UN Regulation No. 48 and to minimise hazards, such as glare and distraction, to other road users. This revised proposal is based on informal document GRE-84-29. The modifications to the current text of the UN Regulation are marked in bold for new or strikethrough for deleted characters.

I. Proposal

*Insert a new paragraph 2.6.4.,* to read:

"**2.6.4.** **“*Answer-back signal*” means a flashing signal or a signal with increasing/reducing luminous intensity that operates under the park condition, in conjunction with the locking and unlocking of the door(s).**"

*Paragraph 5.9.,* amend to read:

"5.9. In the absence of specific instructions, the photometric characteristics (e.g. intensity, colour, apparent surface, etc.) of a lamp shall not be intentionally varied during the period when the lamp is switched ON.

5.9.1. Direction-indicator lamps, the vehicle-hazard warning signal, amber side-marker lamps complying with paragraph 6.18.7. below, the emergency stop signal shall be flashing lamps. **In addition, answer-back signal may be flashing.**

5.9.2. The photometric characteristics of any lamp may vary:

(a) In relation to the ambient light;

(b) As a consequence of other lamps being switched ON or OFF; or

(c) When the lamps is being used to provide another lighting function; provided that any variation in the photometric characteristics is in compliance with the technical provisions for the lamp concerned.

5.9.3. The photometric characteristics of a direction indicator lamp of categories 1, 1a, 1b, 2a or 2b may be varied during a flash by sequential activation of light sources as specified in paragraph 5.6. of UN Regulation No. 6. or paragraph 5.6.11. of UN Regulation No. 148. **[In addition, hazard warning signal and answer-back signal may also be varied during a flash by sequential activation of light sources.]**

This provision shall not apply when direction indicator lamps of categories 2a and 2b are operated as emergency stop signal according to paragraph 6.23.1. of this Regulation. "

*Insert a new paragraph 6.27.,* to read:

"**6.27. Answer-back signal**

**6.27.1. Presence**

**Optional**

**The signal may only be given by operation of the [dipped-beam headlamps, the direction-indicator lamps, the rear registration plate lamp(s), the front position lamps, the rear position lamps, the parking lamps, the side-marker lamps, the end-outline marker lamps, the cornering lamps, the maneuvering lamps].**

6.27.2. Number

In accordance with the individual specifications applicable to specific lamp used for the answer-back signal.

6.27.3. Arrangement

In accordance with the individual specifications applicable to specific lamp used for the answer-back signal.

6.27.4. Position

6.27.4.1. In width: in accordance with the individual specifications applicable to specific lamp used for the answer-back signal.

6.27.4.2. In height: in accordance with the individual specifications applicable to specific lamp used for the answer-back signal.

6.27.4.3. In length: in accordance with the individual specifications applicable to specific lamp used for the answer-back signal.

6.27.5. Geometric visibility

In accordance with the individual specifications applicable to specific lamp used for the answer-back signal.

6.27.6. Orientation

In accordance with the individual specifications applicable to specific lamp used for the answer-back signal.

6.27.7. Electrical connections

6.27.7.1. The answer-back signal shall only operate under the park condition of a vehicle.

6.27.7.2. The answer-back signal may only be activated automatically in conjunction with the locking and unlocking of the door(s).

6.27.7.3. [No sharp variation shall be observed during transition of increasing/reducing luminous intensity.]

6.27.7.4. If the answer-back signal flashes, it shall flash at a frequency not exceeding 2.0 Hz.

6.27.7.5. The duration of the optical indication shall not exceed 3 seconds.

6.27.7.6. The answer-back signal shall be switched ON and OFF automatically

6.27.7.7. The driver may be able to deactivate and reactivate the answer-back signal manually.

6.27.7.8. The lamps may also operate in combination.

6.27.8. Tell-tale

Optional.

6.27.9. Other requirements

The condition of paragraphs 5.11. and 5.12. above may not apply."

"

TP will be updated later.

*Insert a new paragraph 12.8.,* to read:

"**[12.8. Transitional provisions applicable to the [09] series of amendments.**

**12.8.1. As from the official date of entry into force of the [09] series of amendments, no Contracting Party applying this UN Regulation shall refuse to grant or refuse to accept UN type approvals under this UN Regulation as amended by the [09] series of amendments.**

**12.8.2. As of 1 September [20xx] Contracting Parties applying this UN Regulation shall not be obliged to accept UN type approvals to the preceding series of amendments, first issued after 1 September [20xx].**

**12.8.3. Until 1 September [20xx], Contracting Parties applying this UN Regulation shall accept UN type approvals to the preceding series of amendments, first issued before 1 September [20xx].**

**12.8.4. As from 1 September [20xx], Contracting Parties applying this UN Regulation shall not be obliged to accept type approvals issued to the preceding series of amendments to this UN Regulation.**

**12.8.5. Notwithstanding the transitional provisions above, Contracting Parties who start to apply this UN Regulation after the date of entry into force of the most recent series of amendments are not obliged to accept UN type-approvals which were granted in accordance with any of the preceding series of amendments to this UN Regulation.**

**12.8.6. Notwithstanding paragraph 12.8.4. Contracting Parties applying this UN Regulation shall continue to accept UN type approvals to the preceding series of amendments to this UN Regulation, for the vehicle types which are not affected by the changes introduced by the [09] series of amendments.**

**12.8.7. Contracting Parties applying this UN Regulation may grant UN type approvals according to any preceding series of amendments to this UN Regulation.**

**12.8.8 Contracting Parties applying this UN Regulation shall continue to grant extensions of existing approvals to any preceding series of amendments to this Regulation.]** "

*Annex 2,* amend to read:

"**Annex 2**

**Arrangements of approval marks**

Model A

(See paragraph 4.4. of this Regulation)



**09**

a = 8 mm min.

The above approval mark affixed to a vehicle shows that the vehicle type concerned has, with regard to the installation of lighting and light-signalling devices, been approved in the Netherlands (E4) pursuant to UN Regulation No. 48 as amended by the **[09]** series of amendments. The approval number indicates that the approval was granted in accordance with the requirements of UN Regulation No. 48 as amended by the  **[09]** series of amendments.

Model B

(See paragraph 4.5. of this Regulation)



**09**

a = 8 mm min.

The above approval mark affixed to a vehicle shows that the vehicle type concerned has been approved in the Netherlands (E 4) pursuant to UN Regulation No. 48 as amended by the  **[09]** series of amendments and UN Regulation No. 33.5 The approval number indicates that, at the dates when the respective approvals were given, UN Regulation No. 48 was amended by the  **[09]** series of amendments and UN Regulation No. 33 was still in its original form.

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5 The second number is given merely as an example. "

**II. Justification**

Justification will be updated later.

1. This proposal aims to introduce answer-back signals into R48. Many vehicles have already been fitted with answer-back signals. However, the current R48 has no provision for such signals, which may cause confusion or distraction to other road users. To address the issue, this proposal amends the Regulation to include a definition of answer-back signals, clarify that such signals may light up, and regulate them as necessary. The main requirements for an answer-back signal will be as follows.
2. A new definition of answer-back signals will be given in paragraph 2.6.4. as “a flashing signal or a signal with increasing/reducing luminous intensity designed, under the park condition, to turn on in conjunction with either one or any combination of the following:the locking and unlocking of the doors, the opening and closing of the doors, the vehicle user approaching with the key” and their activation requirements will be given in paragraph 6.27.
3. The maximum intensity and colour of an answer-back signal shall be the same as those of the original lamp.
4. The duration of the optical indication of an answer-back signal shall not exceed 3 seconds in the same manner as the external status indicator of immobilisers.
5. DRLs and reversing lamps shall not be allowed as the “types of lamps that can be used” selected based on the requests from manufacturers, because, for DRLs, they emit light upward which may cause glare for other traffic users and, for reversing lamps, they emit light upward and their white colour is supposed to tell other traffic that the vehicle is moving in the direction of the illumination, which may be misleading to other drivers.

6. This proposal document follows the example of exterior courtesy lamps introduced under [GRE/2008/20](https://unece.org/DAM/trans/doc/2008/wp29gre/ECE-TRANS-WP29-GRE-2008-20e.doc), in which those lamps were prescribed as lamps that can be activated under the park condition.

1. \* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2021 as outlined in proposed programme budget for 2021 (A/75/6 (Sect.20), para 20.51), the World Forum will develop, harmonize and update UN Regulations in order to enhance the performance of vehicles. The present document is submitted in conformity with that mandate. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)