

UNECE GRSP IWG Equitable Occupant Protection (EqOP)

Minutes of the 2nd meeting held on May 15, 2023, in Geneva.

Hybrid meeting with 22 participants in person, and 11 on remote dial-in.

Adoption of the agenda

Approved.

Roll Call of participants

Separate list of participants.

EqOP workplan

The chair Pernilla Bremer and vice-chair Corina Klug presented the workplan, followed by discussion. The importance to have a data driven process was mentioned. A worktable has been drafted and the work with the first task has started. An empty worktable can be found on the dedicated UN wiki page. The IWG will use the table as a start to collect research findings, identify gaps, review the concerned regulations, etc., in a structured way, to present issues that should be addressed by regulation upgrades or issues that will need further research. Everybody agrees that it is an ambitious time schedule to finish this in 2023.

The Worktable consists of different folders, namely Instructions, Studies, All crash types (no specific direction), Frontal-, Side- and Rear crash types. Within 'Studies' relevant material should be added as reference material for implementation in the correct table page. Primarily, all participants to the Worktable Drafting Team are responsible for their studies to be implemented.

The work will proceed from human body regions (according to the AIS), which should be identified, studied, and commented regarding equity issues. Finally, the "green area" should include conclusions, ideas, proposals to use other tools (ATDs or HBMs), new injury criteria, test speeds and load cases, etc. The last column of the green area includes "Research gaps" and identifies needed improvement areas.

The next step regarding the worktable will be to identify missing studies in the folder and start to work individually until the next meeting in the drafting team on May 24. Any new interested party should contact Torbjorn Andersson to become included in the distribution list of the worktable drafting team and to get further information about the worktable process.

The chair and vice-chair presented the idea of running a series of workshops during 2023. We concluded to run three workshops (September, October, and November):

#1 The first workshop will address neck injuries in rear impact, NB Whiplash Associated Disorders (WAD). The aim is to identify quick wins and future measures to reduce neck injuries for all occupants. Bernd Lorentz will convene a group to prepare for this workshop. Thomas Kinsky (Humanetics) and Ines Levallois (FORVIA/CLEPA) volunteered to participate in the preparation. OICA will consider its representative. The reason to focus neck injuries in the first workshop is that they have been identified as an equity issue already in DEOP and seen as a low hanging fruit for the IWG. The workshop will take place at BAST (Cologne, Germany) on 05.-07.09.2023.

#2 The second workshop will address the worktable. The aim will be to conclude the results of the Worktable well before the final reporting in December 2023. The proposed date for this workshop is 23.-25.10.2023, place tbd. The second workshop will in addition address regulatory hinders regarding coping with equity issues. One case on a particular head restraint for a seat with integrated seatbelts was mentioned, together with another example regarding geometrical requirements. We should be driven by data, but sometimes we need to look at the regulations as such.

#3 The third workshop will address virtual crash testing. The vice-chair introduced the Task Force on VCT, and how the work shall start regarding VCT. Interested parties should send an e-mail to Philipp Wernicke to confirm their participation in this Task Force. The third workshop will be run in November in Munich. A general comment was made that we should inspire the stakeholders that are involved, i.e., ourselves. We should draft a “mission statement”; about where VCT can help/support regulation as first step. Demand will come based on that, and afterwards we can start to consider how to draft good processes for VCT in regulations.

Confirmation of consensus on action items

#1 The workshop to address neck injuries in rear impacts will take place at BAST (Cologne, Germany) on 05-07 September 2023. Bernd Lorentz will convene a group to prepare for this workshop. Thomas Kinsky (HUMANETICS) and Ines Levallois (FORVIA/CLEPA) will participate in the preparation together with a representative from OICA. OICA will provide a name to the secretariat.

#2 The second workshop to address the worktable and potential regulatory hinders will be run on 23-25 October 2023, place yet to be decided. The worktable drafting team will complete the input to the worktable prior to the workshop. New parties that would like to take active part in the worktable team should contact Torbjorn Andersson on e-mail.

The next drafting team meeting will be on May 24.

#3 The third workshop to address virtual crash testing will be run in November in Munich. Exact dates will be decided as soon as possible by the Task Force on VCT. Parties that would like to take active part in this task force should contact Philipp Wernicke on e-mail. E-mail addresses to Torbjorn and Philipp, respectively:

Torbjorn.Andersson@autoliv.com

Philipp.Wernicke@bmw.de

Any other business

OICA reminded that not all interested parties have been included in the current distribution list, and that information and requests should be addressed to all GRSP members.

NL mentioned that it will be important to find ways to bridge the work of the IWG to Euro NCAP and the other rating programs around the world, though the processes to rate vehicles and type-approve vehicles differ from each other.