

Annex VIII

Adopted Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Informal Working Group "Simplification of the Lighting and Light-Signalling Regulations"

I. Introduction

1. At the 156th session of WP.29, the European Union, supported by Japan, urged WP.29 to consider the simplification of the lighting regulations and to focus upon developing less technology-specific, more performance-related requirements (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1095, paras. 76 and 77).
2. At the 157th session of WP.29, GTB presented its approach to help GRE work on consolidating the UN Regulations on lighting and light-signalling to reduce the administrative workload. The suggested approach seeks to reduce the number of regulations concerning lighting and light-signalling and to focus on performance requirements rather than design and technical descriptions.
3. Subsequently this approach was distributed as an official document ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2012/119 and formally considered by WP.29 at its 158th session. WP.29 endorsed the principles proposed by GTB and asked GRE to develop a road map, taking into consideration the resources of GRE (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1099, para. 37).
4. At its sixty-ninth session, GRE agreed to create a special interest group of experts, which met in February and June 2014, to define the Terms of Reference of this new Informal Working Group.
5. The purpose of IWG is not to adapt or amend the prescriptions of the various Regulations under consideration other than where the objectives of simplification and consolidation so require.
6. GRE asks WP.29 to approve the establishment of a new informal group under GRE, namely "Informal Group on Simplification of the Lighting and Light-Signalling Regulations" to work in accordance to the objectives set out below.

II. Objectives

7. The objective of the informal group is to review the current suite of lighting and light-signalling Regulations and to develop a proposal to:
 - (a) Provide a structure that limits to a minimum the number of parallel amendments necessary to achieve a regulatory change;
 - (b) Reduce the number of active/non-frozen regulations; and
 - (c) Define the essential requirements in performance (technology neutral) terms to provide opportunities for innovation.
8. The proposal from the informal group shall also seek to:
 - (a) Reduce ambiguity in the provisions to provide consistent interpretation;
 - (b) Reduce the administrative burden (caused by maintenance of Regulations) on the Contracting Parties, the UNECE secretariat (and associated UN services) and the affected industrial sector;

(c) Reduce regulatory burden for industry.

9. The informal group shall propose a new approach to reform the practice of multiple/collective amendments and may consider (but is not limited by) the consolidation of common requirements to improve the efficiency of the regulatory text. As a first step, the light-signalling regulations shall be examined.

10. The informal group shall identify possibilities to merge regulations containing similar or identical provisions such as Regulations Nos. 98 and 112 and, if feasible, to develop a draft regulatory text.

11. Based upon the conclusion of objectives 9 and 10 above and/or additional analysis, the other Regulations (relating to forward lighting, retro-reflective devices, light sources and installation) shall be addressed.

12. In parallel to objectives 9-11 above, the informal group shall:

(a) Determine whether the current regulatory text presents barriers to innovation and whether safety considerations are addressed;

(b) Develop, as far as possible, performance-based and technology-neutral requirements to ensure freedom for technical innovation within a framework of safety principles.

III. Operating principles

13. The Informal Working Group on Simplification of the UN Lighting and Light Signalling Regulations is a subgroup of GRE and is open to all participants of GRE including Contracting Parties and non-governmental organizations to the 1958 and 1998 Agreements.

14. A Chair (Belgium), a Vice-Chair (European Commission) and a Secretary (GTB) will manage the informal group.

15. The official language of the informal group will be English.

16. An agenda and related documents shall be made available on the website (www2.unece.org/wiki/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=23759699) by the Secretary of the Group in advance of all scheduled meetings.

17. All documents and/or proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Group in a suitable electronic format in advance of the meetings. The Group may postpone discussing any item or proposal which has not been circulated 5 working days in advance of the scheduled meeting.

18. The Secretary of the Group will distribute the meeting minutes to the IWG members within 15 working days after the meeting of the Group.

19. Decisions and proposals of the group shall be reached by consensus. When consensus cannot be reached, the Chair of the Group shall present the different points of view to GRE. The Chair may seek guidance from GRE as appropriate.

20. Sessions shall be held in agreement with the majority of the participants after the Group has been established in a constitutional meeting. Sessions may be in person or virtual using web-based technology.

21. A provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the secretariat in accordance with the participants of the Group. The first item of the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

22. The second item on the provisional agenda will be the discussion on matters arising and adoption of the minutes of the previous session.

IV. Work plan and time schedule

23. Relating to objectives 9 and 10 of section II above: the seventy-third session of GRE in April 2015 for the 167th session of WP.29 in November 2015.
24. Relating to objective 11 of section II above: the seventy-fourth session of GRE in October 2015 for the 168th session of WP.29 in March 2016.
25. Relating to objective 12 of section II above: the date will be confirmed to WP.29 at its 167th session in November 2015.
26. Meetings of the informal group will be scheduled to meet the timeline for deliverables. These meetings may be "in-person" or virtual (WebEx or similar).