

Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Informal Working Group "Simplification of the Lighting and Light-Signalling UN Regulations" (IWG SLR)

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 UN Regulations and to focus on 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 UN Regulations concerning lighting and light signalling and to focus on performance requirements rather than design and technical descriptions.

3. Subsequently this approach, distributed as an official document, ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2012/119, was 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. At its seventy-second session, GRE adopted GRE-72-20 (as reproduced in Annex VIII to the report) proposing the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Informal Working Group "Simplification of the Lighting and Light-Signalling UN Regulations" (IWG SLR). The informal group had already held its first session in September 2014 to establish its draft Terms of Reference.

6. IWG SLR met on seven occasions, exploring many approaches to deliver the required simplification and finally adopted the plan in January 2016. This plan consisted of two stages:

Stage 1: Update and freeze the existing device UN Regulations and then produce three new UN Regulations (for road illumination, light-signalling and retro-reflective devices) based on the text of existing UN Regulations. The purpose was not to adapt or amend the prescriptions of the various UN Regulations under consideration other than where the objectives of simplification and consolidation so required;

Stage 2: Update the three new UN Regulations to be technology neutral and performance based and to update the installation UN Regulations accordingly.

7. At its 169th session, WP.29 agreed that, following the finalisation of stage 1, the IWG SLR shall focus on stage 2 of the simplification process (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1123, para. 44).

8. Due to the workload involved to deliver stage 2, GRE, at its seventy-ninth session in April 2018, endorsed a proposal to stage 2 into two steps (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/79, para. 8).

9. IWG SLR also discussed the importance of harmonization of technical requirements with other international/regional/national regulatory systems and acknowledged this as an optional objective for the finalisation of stage 2.

10. In addition, GRE at its seventy-ninth session, decided that elements of the objectives of the Informal Working Group on Visibility, Glare and Levelling (IWG VGL) (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/76, Annex III) would be transferred to IWG SLR, since both groups had converging goals and in order to avoid duplication of work (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/79, para. 31).

II. Objective

11. The overall objective of the informal group is to review the current set of lighting, light-signalling and retro-reflecting UN Regulations and to develop a proposal that:

- (a) Provides a structure that limits to a minimum the number of parallel amendments necessary to achieve a regulatory change.
- (b) Reduces the number of active/non-frozen UN Regulations.
- (c) Defines the essential requirements in performance (technology-neutral) terms to provide opportunities for innovation.
- (d) Aims to achieve consistent interpretation by reducing ambiguity in the provisions to support objective certification and verification of conformity of production.
- (e) Reduces the administrative burden (caused by maintenance of UN Regulations) on the contracting parties, the ECE secretariat (and associated UN services) and the affected industrial sector.
- (f) Reduces regulatory burden for industry and encourages innovation to improve safety.
- (g) Updates and harmonizes the technical requirements for lighting and light-signalling to be suitable for global implementation under the 1958 and 1998 Agreements.

III. Major project steps

12. To achieve the objectives identified above, the informal group shall:

- (a) Propose a new approach (i.e. performance-based and technology-neutral requirements) 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 UN Regulations shall be addressed.
- (b) Identify possibilities to merge UN Regulations containing similar or identical provisions, such as UN Regulations Nos. 98 and 112 and UN Regulations 3, 27, 69, 70 and 104.
- (c) Determine whether the current regulatory text presents barriers to innovation and adequately addresses safety considerations.
- (d) Develop, unless technically not feasible, performance-based and technology-neutral requirements to ensure freedom for technical innovation within a framework of safety principles.

- (e) Simplify, adhering to a technology-neutral approach, the installation UN Regulations (Nos. 48, 53, 74 and 86). All working documents on lighting installation UN Regulations whose purpose is to improve the performance-based and technology-neutral approach shall be taken into account.
- (f) Take over and consider the outcome of IWG VGL, based on the discussion document GRE-79-29 as recommended by the seventy-ninth session of GRE (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/79, para. 31).
- (g) Draft the technical requirements for lighting and light-signalling to make them suitable for implementation under the 1958 and 1998 Agreements.

IV. Operating principles

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

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. The Secretary of the Group shall submit the agenda and related documents in a suitable electronic format in advance of all scheduled meetings. All documents shall be posted on the website (<https://wiki.unece.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=23759699>). The Group may postpone discussion on any item or proposal, which has not been circulated five working days in advance of the scheduled meeting.

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

18. 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.

19. Sessions shall be convened, in agreement with the majority of the participants, after the Group has been established in a constitutional meeting. Sessions may be in person and / or virtual using web-based technology and shall be scheduled to meet the timeline for deliverables.

20. A provisional agenda shall be drafted 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.

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

V. Work plan and time schedule

STAGE 1	The objective was to update and freeze the existing device UN Regulations and produce three new UN Regulations (road illumination (RID), light-signalling (LSD) and retro-reflecting devices (RRD)) based on the text of existing UN Regulations.	
	This was primarily an editorial task to leave the prescriptions of the various UN Regulations unchanged, other than where the objectives of simplification and consolidation so required.	
	Completion at the eightieth session of GRE	October 2018
	Final adoption by WP.29 of the new LSD, RID and RRD UN Regulations and the associated package of amendments to existing UN Regulations	November 2018

STAGE 2	The overarching objective is to update and harmonize the technical requirements for lighting and light-signalling to be suitable for global implementation under the 1958 and 1998 Agreements.	
STAGE 2 STEP 1	Revise the technical requirements of UN Regulations Nos. 148, 149 and 150, to become technology neutral with performance-based and objective test requirements taking into account glare and visibility.	
	Amendments will also be required to UN Regulation No. 48 taking into account the work of IWG-VGL.	
	Informal submission to the eighty-third session of GRE	October 2020
	Final consideration at the eighty-fifth session of GRE	October 2021
	Adoption by WP.29	June 2022
STAGE 2 STEP 2	Simplify and update the technical requirements of the UN installation Regulations (Nos. 48, 53, 74, 86), to become technology neutral with performance-based and objective test requirements.	
	Continue to work on amendments to UN Regulation No. 48 concerning headlamp levelling (in separate SLR meetings).	
	Informal submission to GRE	October 2023
	Final consideration at GRE	October 2024
	Adoption by WP.29	2025

Approved at the 80th GRE session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/80, Annex II). Section V amended at the 86th GRE session (see ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/86, Annex III).