

Minutes of the ad-hoc Meeting of EqOP's Task force 2 – Rear impact assessment

Participants: OICA, CLEPA, Netherlands, Germany, USA, France, Sweden, Spain, Austria

May 28th 2024; 12:30-13:30

CLEPA is against the proposal of the Netherlands, as it could lead to unfavourable designs with even increased whiplash risk. Due to the small back set of the headrest (GTR 7) in combination with the NL proposal, it is expected that the geometry of the backrest would change in a way where the shoulder area will be designed closer to the occupant and therefore the shoulders would be decelerated earlier than the head so that the whiplash injury risk could be increased.

In the CLEPA proposal the idea is to make a simple geometric check to avoid gaps in the supporting structure.

The other problem is the geometry of the structure, which is not addressed by the CLEPA proposal, which was the idea of the NL proposal

In the NL proposal, the idea is to control also the shape of the structure to ensure that the structure is also not too much rearwards. It is unclear for CLPEA currently how this could be avoided.

NL: Proposal ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSP/2024/8 not ready to be adopted now. Idea was not to change the requirement, but just applying it to a wider area. Currently for small occupants (e.g. children without booster), the headrest is often not used / not supporting at all.

Points to consider in future discussions:

- Smaller occupants have a smaller inclination angles, a smaller distance between head and headrest.
- A more complex geometric requirements or could be considered. There have been some earlier discussions on the applicable angles for different statures.
- OICA: R17 & GTR 7 should be aligned; OICA would support the CLEPA proposal. Ask for mandate to change GTR 7. Avoid risks that we worsen the situations with the changes in R17.
- Germany: Reg 17 should be changed as interim solution asap.

Summary:

- *Most experts agree that there should be a supporting structure covering different sizes and avoid protecting BioRID 50M only.*
- CLEPA will submit their document as informal document. General view as good first step for R17.
- Open points: requirements of the backrest should be reconsidered and the minimum height of the headrest, shape of the supporting structure of the headrest.
- Doodle will be sent out to find date for new meeting to initiate preparation of documents for next GRSP.
- Next face to face meeting is on the 9th of September, which is the due date to submit formal documents for December GRSP meeting.