

UNECE GRSP IWG Equitable Occupant Protection (EqOP) Task Force 4 – Frontal impact and restraint system requirements

Minutes of the second meeting.

On-line meeting. January 29, 2026. 38 participants.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Adopted.

2. Approval of the minutes from last meeting

Approved.

3. Short presentations

TU Graz analyzed Austrian crash data to study how seating position affects passenger injury severity in frontal collisions. Although most occupants sit in the front row, second-row passengers tend to suffer slightly more severe injuries, including a notable share of abdominal trauma. Abdomen injuries account for 7.3% of all injuries in frontal impacts. Using accident reconstructions and clinical patterns, the study maps injury distribution across body regions and highlights safety differences between seating rows. BAST presented a GIDAS analysis of abdominal injuries in car occupants, aged over 11 years, involved in crashes 2005–2025. Frontal impacts account for about two-thirds of cases. Most injuries are minor (AIS 1), though serious trauma also appears. By comparing seating positions and restraint use, the study shows how different crash factors influence abdominal injury risk.

The Swedish Transport Agency reviewed 20 years of road-crash data on car-occupant abdominal trauma. While neck injuries are most common overall, 6–7% of passengers sustain internal-organ injuries, often together with chest trauma. The analysis reveals gender-specific patterns; men more often injure the spleen, women the liver and small intestine, and shows that most affected occupants are women seated in the front.

4. Planning for workshop in Japan

Postponed to next meeting.

5. Continued discussion on priorities

Japan presented on how to prioritize research on occupant protection in frontal impact as per the table provided by the chair in the previous meeting. The priorities specifically focus on abdominal injuries caused by submarining and the structural robustness of rear seating. CLEPA also presented its view on how to prioritize research on occupant protection in frontal impact as per the table provided by the chair in the previous meeting.

6. Conclusions

Abdominal injuries as well as rear row remain as priorities.

Continue discussion on priorities and plan workshop in Japan in next meeting.

7. Next meeting

March 13, 2026, between 12.00 and 14.00 CET