Draft Guidelines for application of the Unique Identifier (UI)

*This document is a proposal for guidelines on the application of the Unique Identifier (UI). It is based on document SG58-22-10 rev.1 and includes proposal SG58-23-04 from Japan and the conclusions from the 14 February informal meeting between IWG DETA and GRE/IWG SLR representatives.*

I. Introduction

1. This guidance document is intended to provide guidance to the approval authorities of Contracting Parties to the 1958 Agreement, their designated technical services and manufacturers on the use of the Unique Identifier (UI) in accordance with Schedule 5 of the 1958 Agreement Revision 3.

2. This guidance document does not alter the provisions of the 1958 Agreement and the existing UN Regulations. If there is any inconsistency between these guidelines and the text of the 1958 Agreement, the latter shall prevail.

3. When drafting a new UN Regulation or an amendment of a UN Regulation, the subsidiary bodies of WP.29 may deviate from these guidelines where they consider it necessary and justified.

II. Main principles of the Unique Identifier

3. The Unique Identifier (hereafter called UI) is introduced by the 1958 Agreement Revision 3. If used, the UI serves as:

(a) A number assigned to a product upon storing the type approval(s) of that product on the secure internet database in accordance with Schedule 5 of the 1958 Agreement Revision 3. The UI is generated by the database automatically.  
For the purpose of this Article, a product is a system, component, equipment or part and may incorporate multiple type approvals.

(b) An approval marking consisting of the UI number preceded by the symbol and replacing the approval marking(s) required by the UN Regulation(s) in case those UN Regulation(s) allow for it. Any leading zeros in the UI number may be omitted in the marking.

UI

4. A product may consist of multiple approved components with their unique type approval numbers assigned to it, as is typically for lamp units. There can only be one UI assigned to a product and one UI applies to one product only. Nonetheless, different products may incorporate the same components with the same type approval numbers.

Example of a lamp unit incorporating a stop lamp, direction-indicator lamp and rear retro-reflector:  
UI 1: lamp unit with E4-7R-1234, E4-6R-1234  
 UI 2: lamp unit with E4-7R-1234, E4-6R-1234, E4-3R-1234  
 UI 3: lamp unit with E4-7R-1234, E4-6R-5678, E4-3R-1234

In this case, UI’s are assigned to all the different products. The UI for the product may be used as marking. By feeding the UI number into the database, all information to all of the type approval(s) as part of the product can be found.

5. The position of the UI marking on a product shall be as prescribed for the ECE marking. ECE markings on a product may only be combined to a single UI marking where it concerns related subjects, such as lighting or tyres.

III. General guidelines on the use of the Unique Identifier

6. For the efficient operation of the approval process, approval authorities are appealed to utilize the secure internet database established by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, for communicating to Contracting Parties notice of approval, of extension, of refusal, of withdrawal or where production is definitely discontinued of a type of wheeled vehicles, equipment or parts, including all its documentation, according to Schedule 5 of the 1958 Agreement Revision 3.

7. The approval authority where a manufacturer applies for type approval for his product is responsible for issuing the UI. The UI is generated by the database automatically in case the approval authority:

(a) ‘Reserves’ the UI by entering a minimum set of attributes and the type approval number(s) for that product;

(b) Uploads a new type approval for which a new UI is requested into the database with the corresponding attributes;

(c) On request of the manufacturer, creates a new product consisting of multiple approved components by selecting type approval numbers already existing in the database.

8. For each separate product a manufacturer shall apply for a UI at only one approval authority. However, different functionalities of the product may be covered by type approvals issued by approval authorities of different Contracting Parties.

9. The User Manual of the secure internet database specifies further details on the use of the database.

10. Further guidelines on the use of the UI in case of modifications of approved products or of UN Regulations are described in Annex 1.

11. Utilizing the secure internet database and using the UI as marking is on a voluntary basis, unless a UN Regulation stipulates otherwise. A UN Regulation may prohibit the use of the UI as marking for the items covered by that UN Regulation. A UN Regulation may also specify that additional symbols and information to be marked on the product can be regarded as part of the approval marking and may be replaced by the UI marking accordingly.

**Annex 1**

General guidelines on the use of the UI in case of modifications of approved products or of UN Regulations.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Product status** | **Regulation update** | **Impact on approval** | **Impact on UN type approval marking (current)** | **Impact on UI marking  (with database)** |
| 1 | new product | - | new approval | approval no(’s) issued; UN type approval marking(s) on the new product | approval no(‘s) linked to a UI; UI marking on the new product |
| 2 | modification of the product, no impact on approval | - | no impact | no impact | no impact |
| 3 | modification of the product with impact on approval | - | extension required | no impact | no impact |
| 4 | modification of the product which exceeds its type definition | - | new approval | new approval no(’s) issued; new UN type approval marking(s) on the new product | new approval no(‘s) linked to a new UI; new UI marking on the new product |
| 5 | no product modification, product already complies with the new series of amendments to UN Regulation | update of UN Regulation, new series of amendments | extension of approval with indication of the new series of amendments | new UN type approval marking(s) on the un-modified product | new UI marking on the un-modified product only if the product and all its variants do not meet the requirements of the initial type approval and the current series of amendments *alternative wording:* change to new UI linked to a new type approval may be omitted only if the un-modified product and all its variants meet the requirements of both the previous and the new series of amendments |
| 6 | modification of the product to provide for compliance with the new series of amendments to UN Regulation, not exceeding type definition | update of UN Regulation, new series of amendments | extension of approval with indication of the new series of amendments | new UN type approval marking(s) on the modified product | new UI marking on the modified product |

Remark: This table may in future be amended for cases where products comply with regulations   
 other than UNECE (e.g. CCC, AIS, FMVSS) and the UI accordingly incorporates also   
 those marking (where the manufacturer so requests).