

Status Report on the United States of America's Incorporation of GTR 6 on Safety Glazing Materials for Motor Vehicles and Motor Safety Equipment into Its National Standards

The United States of America (U.S.), as a Contracting Party to the 1998 Global Agreement, under the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), voted in favor of establishing the sixth global technical regulation (gtr) on Safety Glazing Materials for Motor Vehicles and Motor Vehicle Equipment (gtr 6) at the March 2008 Session of the Executive Committee of the 1998 Agreement. Per this Agreement, the U.S. is obligated to initiate the process for adopting the provisions of gtr 6.¹

As of March, 2009, the U.S. has begun its internal rulemaking process to evaluate and incorporate the provisions of the gtr into the existing U.S. safety standard. The primary efforts are focused on redrafting the language in the U.S. standard to reflect the new requirements in the GTR. Some of the key updates include a new test procedure that is better suited for evaluating the fragmentation characteristics of toughened glazing and a new impact test for the windscreen that represents a more realistic scenario for a typical stone to windscreen impact. The gtr also contains updated tests for glazing abrasion resistance, light transmission and optical quality. This activity harmonizes the US standard with the gtr, thus satisfying the obligation under the 1998 Agreement stated above.

As of March 2009, the end of the one-year period after the date of the establishment of gtr 6 in the Global Registry, the U.S. had neither adopted the gtr nor decided not to adopt the gtr into its own laws or regulations. Per paragraph 7.4 of Article 7, the U.S. is accordingly obligated to submit a report to the Secretary-General on the status of the GTR in its domestic process. The submission of this document satisfies that obligation as well.

¹ While the Agreement obligates such contracting parties to begin their processes, it leaves the ultimate decision of whether to adopt the GTR into their domestic law to the parties themselves.