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Working Party on Lighting and Light-Signalling (GRE)
(Forty-sixth session, 27-30 March 2001,
agenda item 1.4.)

PROPOSAL FOR DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION No. 48

(Installation of lighting and light-signalling devices)

Transmitted by the Expert from the Working Party "Brussels 1952" (GTB)

Note: The text reproduced below was prepared by GTB in order to clarify requirements of the Regulation concerning installation of additional retro-reflectors.

Note: This document is distributed to the Experts on Lighting and Light-Signalling only.

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A. PROPOSAL

Paragraph 2.9.3., amend to read:

"2.9.3 "Illuminating surface of a retro-reflector" (paragraph 2.7.16.) means, **as declared by the applicant during the component approval procedure for the retro-reflectors**, the orthogonal projection of a retro-reflector in a plane perpendicular to its axis of reference and delimited by planes contiguous to the **declared** outermost parts of the retro-reflectors' optical system and parallel to that axis. For the purposes of determining the lower, upper and lateral edges of the device, only horizontal and vertical planes shall be considered."

B. JUSTIFICATION

In relevant paragraphs 6.14.2., 6.16.2. and 6.17.2., the ECE Regulation No.48, 02 series of amendments, reads concerning the possibility of installing additional reflective devices:

"... Additional retroreflective devices and materials are allowed provided that they do not impair the effectiveness of the mandatory lighting and signalling devices."

Additional retro-reflectors are common practice in countries like the United States of America and Canada. Some vehicle manufacturers design cars for the world market. The vagueness of the wording used in Regulation No. 48 paves the way for diverging interpretation in Europe, because the aforesaid paragraph does not contain a scientific method to quantify whether the extra parts impair, or not impair, the basic equipment.

The GTB carefully reviewed the situation, and came to the conclusion that amending the definition of the illuminating surface as proposed above brings the solution. The applicant needs to declare which part(s) of the retro-reflector(s) fulfil the optical requirements of ECE Regulation No. 3 as well as the installation requirements.
