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PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A GLOBAL TECHNICAL REGULATION
CONCERNING UNIFORM PROVISIONS FOR COMMON TASKS

Transmitted by the representative of Japan

Note: This document contains a proposal for a global technical regulation (gtr), regarding common tasks, to be developed for the 1998 Agreement concerning the establishing of Global Technical Regulations for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or be used on wheeled vehicles. It is being submitted by Japan to WP.29 and the AC.3 for consideration.

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<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/welcwp29.htm>

Objective of the proposal

At the one-hundred-and-twentieth session of WP.29, the Japanese Government proposed in document TRANS/WP.29/2000/33 to solve common problems of definitions of the category, mass and dimensions of vehicles. If not resolved, such problems might hinder members' future work in establishing Global Technical Regulations (gtrs). Japan's proposal was based on the experience that had been gained after Japan signed the 1958 Agreement in November 1998, started adopting ECE Regulations and had difficulties in solving several similar problems. Those challenges urged Japan to propose identifying the predictable problems and finding solutions for the Contracting Parties to the 1998 Agreement. The proposal is aimed at harmonizing the commonly given definitions of the category, dimensions and mass of vehicles in all gtrs to help the Contracting Parties in establishing and adopting gtrs.

This Global Technical Regulation (gtr) applies to all wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts falling within the scope of the Agreement concerning the establishing of global technical regulations for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts, which can be fitted and/or be used on wheeled vehicles.

The establishment of the definitions of the category, mass and dimensions of vehicles will help not only to establish gtrs and internationally improve the safety and environmental protection features of automobiles, but will also cut down development and manufacturing costs thanks to the standardization of vehicle design and components.

Description of the proposal regulation

In identifying the problems common to gtrs, the following points should be taken into consideration:

1. “Common definitions” shall be developed as basic elements for the gtrs.
 - Common definitions of category, mass and dimensions shall be developed on the assumption that they will be primarily used for gtrs subject to the 1998 Global Agreement.
2. “Common definitions” shall be developed from the technical point of view, and shall not necessarily be linked to any social systems such as taxation, driving license, etc.
 - Common definitions of category, mass and dimensions shall be developed primarily for the purpose of governing the technical requirements and test procedures.
 - Even after these definitions for the 1998 Global Agreement are adopted as [Global Technical Regulation Zero], ^{1/} Contracting Parties to the Agreement do not need to change their social systems currently in effect, such as taxation, insurance rates, toll fares, drivers' licenses, etc. in accordance with the new definitions.

^{1/} The above are based on the assumption that the common definitions are formulated as [Global Technical Regulation Zero]. The brackets are added since this depends on the resolution of WP.29 and the Executive Committee AC.3 of the 1998 Global Agreement

3. Only “common definitions” with extensive applicability shall be developed based on present-day definitions.
 - Only new definitions of category, mass, and dimensions, which are necessary to be defined from a variety of viewpoints such as objectives of regulations, nature of vehicle structure, and vehicle usage shall be developed.
 - In developing the definitions, due consideration shall be given to definitions already in use in each region and country, with the aim of facilitating ease of adoption and continued use of current definitions amongst those regions and countries for as long as possible.
4. Procedures for developing “common definitions”
 - When adopted or developed gtrs include common definitions of category, mass, and dimensions, WP.29 may request GRSG to examine them whether they should be added to [Global Technical Regulation Zero].

This proposal for a "Global Technical Regulation Zero" (attached sheets) ^{2/} has been prepared by the GRSG informal group that worked on the task from October 2000 to October 2002, taking the above points into account.

The formal deliberation on the proposal for a "Global Technical Regulation Zero" is at GRSG for approval and is scheduled during the fifty-fourth GRSG session in May 2003.

Existing Regulations and Directives

Though there are no regulations currently contained in the Compendium of Candidates, the following regulations were taken into account during development of the new global technical regulation regarding common definitions and procedures for use in Global Technical Regulations.

Europe: ECE Consolidated Resolution on the Construction of Vehicles (R.E.3)
EU Directive 70/156/EEC Type Approval

USA: National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act

Japan: Road Vehicles Act

International voluntary standards

ISO 612 Road vehicles - Dimensions of motor vehicles and towed vehicles- Terms and definitions

ISO 1176 Road vehicles - Masses- vocabulary and codes

^{2/} Note by the secretariat: not furnished with the current proposal.