

Status Report of the informal group for gtr 7 – Phase 2 (Head Restraints)

1. CURRENT STATUS

- At its 149th session AC.3 considered a proposal to develop amendments to gtr 7 – Head Restraints (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2009/130) and gave their agreement to the establishment of an informal working group under GRSP. The informal group held its first official meeting in conjunction with the 46th session of GRSP in December 2009 and this was followed by a further meeting in Tokyo in February.
 - The informal group is considering low speed rear impacts as a priority however, it is mindful of the interest in rear impacts at a higher speed and there have been some discussions concerning this point.
 - The issue of head restraint height is also under consideration but is limited at this time to the procedure for establishing the effective height of the head restraint for the purposes of regulation.
 - Initial discussions concerning dynamic testing have focused on the performance of the BioRid II anthropometric test device (atd) and in particular its calibration procedure and performance criteria. The outcomes of a meeting of “interested experts”, held in Washington in November 2009, have informed these discussions.
 - There is a high level of cooperation from the principal manufacturers of this device and also from those laboratories that have experience of its use. The first meeting of the informal group acknowledged the importance of this cooperation and agreed that it should be managed through a Technical Evaluation Group (TEG) reporting to the informal group.
 - The first output from this group is likely to be a set of drawings, agreed by both manufacturers, which will define the atd for regulatory use. These drawings will be freely available. The informal group will agree with the Secretariat a filing and version control procedure.
 - The next meeting of the informal group will take place on Monday May 17 in Geneva – immediately prior to GRSP.
 - The informal group will meet again on September 20/21 at the Federal Highway Research Institute (BASt) in Germany.
 - A final meeting for 2010 will take place in conjunction with the December session of GRSP.
 - The TEG group will meet in March, April and June. A fourth meeting is expected in late summer, possibly August. For efficiency, the TEG will meet using web meetings.
 - The informal group is grateful to the Secretariat for establishing a depository for their documents on the UN ECE web site and for their support in making them available in a timely way.
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