

Priorities for GTRs

The suppliers believe there are situations where global cooperation to establish common procedures would be beneficial. These situations would involve circumstance where:

- New unregulated technologies are emerging that significantly enhance vehicle performance;
- Government vehicle-related policies are undergoing a significant shift; and/or,
- New testing technologies promise significant enhancements in regulatory or product effectiveness.

In the first case, technologies such as driver-assist systems and solutions to driver distraction come to mind, including collision avoidance, advanced collision mitigation technologies. The shift towards electric power sources, including battery and fuel cell vehicles, also suggests an opportunity to establish common regulatory frameworks.

In the second case, high interest among governments in addressing greenhouse gas emissions, improved fuel efficiency, and the use of alternative fuels suggest potential for common ground on new regulatory approaches, especially in what to measure and how to measure it.

In the third case, advances in biofidelic test tools (impact dummies, leg impactors, etc.) suggest potential for agreement on testing built around these improved tools.

In sum, we believe that AC.3 should focus on rulemaking where either there is an absence of regulation (but only where such new regulation is clearly warranted) or where existing regulations (or portions thereof) are being rendered obsolete by technological advances.

Moreover, discussion of such rulemaking should be undertaken as early as possible in order to send clear signals to suppliers on the directions regulators and policy-makers wish to take. Indeed, such early consideration might also alleviate some of the oscillations in international rulemaking.

On the other hand, suppliers would like the 1998 Agreement to really deliver global harmonization. GTRs should have as few alternatives or modules as possible, and Contracting Parties should transpose GTRs into their national/regional legislation without modifications.