

Updated Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Informal Working Group "Simplification of the Lighting and Light-Signalling Regulations" (SLR)

Based upon the adopted Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure,
ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/72 - Annex VIII (October 2014)

I. Introduction

1. At the 156th session of WP.29, the European Union, supported by Japan, urged WP.29 to consider the simplification of the lighting Regulations and to focus upon developing less technology-specific, more performance-related requirements (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1095, paras. 76 and 77).
2. At the 157th session of WP.29, GTB presented its approach to help GRE work on consolidating the UN Regulations on lighting and light-signalling to reduce the administrative workload. The suggested approach seeks to reduce the number of Regulations concerning lighting and light signalling and to focus on performance requirements rather than design and technical descriptions.
3. Subsequently this approach, distributed as an official document, ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2012/119, was formally considered by WP.29 at its 158th session. WP.29 endorsed the principles proposed by GTB and asked GRE to develop a road map, taking into consideration the resources of GRE (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1099, para. 37).
4. At its sixty-ninth session, GRE agreed to create a special interest group of experts, which met in February and June 2014, to define the Terms of Reference of this new Informal Working Group.
5. At its 72nd session, GRE adopted GRE-72-20 (as reproduced in Annex VIII of its report) proposing the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Informal Working Group "Simplification of the Lighting and Light-Signalling Regulations" (IWG SLR). The informal group had already held its first session in September 2014 to establish its draft terms of reference.
6. IWG-SLR met on seven occasions, exploring many approaches to deliver the required simplification and finally adopted the plan (SLR-08-05 based upon the GTB proposal SLR-08-01) in January 2016. This plan consisted of two stages;

Stage 1: Update and freeze the existing device Regulations and then produce three new UN Regulations (for road illumination, light-signalling and retro-reflecting devices) based on the text of existing UN Regulations. The purpose was not to adapt or amend the prescriptions of the various Regulations under consideration other than where the objectives of simplification and consolidation so required

Stage 2: Update the three new Regulations to be technology neutral and performance based and to update the Installation Regulations accordingly.
7. At its 169th session, WP.29 agreed that, following the finalisation of Stage 1, the IWG SLR shall concentrate on Stage 2 of the simplification process (TRANS/WP.29/1123, Par. 44).
8. Due to the workload involved to deliver Stage 2, GRE, at its 79th session in April 2018, endorsed a proposal to split the tasks to be performed into two steps (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/79, Par. 8).
9. The IWG SLR also discussed the importance of harmonisation of technical requirements with other international/regional/national regulatory systems and acknowledged this as an optional objective for the finalisation of Stage 2.
10. In addition, GRE at its 79th session, decided that elements of the objectives of IWG VGL (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/76, Annex III) will be transferred to the IWG SLR, since both groups have converging goals and in order to avoid duplication of work (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/79, Par. 31)

II. Objective

11. The overall objective of the informal group is to review the current suite of UN lighting, light-signalling and retro-reflecting Regulations and to develop a proposal that:
 - (a) Provides a structure that limits to a minimum the number of parallel amendments necessary to achieve a regulatory change.
 - (b) Reduces the number of active/non-frozen Regulations.
 - (c) Defines the essential requirements in performance (technology neutral) terms to provide opportunities for innovation.
 - (d) Aims to achieve consistent interpretation by reducing ambiguity in the provisions to support objective certification and verification of conformity of production.
 - (e) Reduces the administrative burden (caused by maintenance of Regulations) on the Contracting Parties, the UNECE secretariat (and associated UN services) and the affected industrial sector.
 - (f) Reduces regulatory burden for industry and encourages innovation to improve safety.
 - (g) Updates and harmonises the technical requirements for lighting and light signalling to be suitable for global implementation under the UN 1958 and 1998 agreements.

III. Major Project Steps

12. To achieve the objectives identified above, the informal group shall:
 - (a) Propose a new approach (i.e. performance-based and technology neutral requirements) to reform the practice of multiple/collective amendments and may consider (but is not limited by) the consolidation of common requirements to improve the efficiency of the regulatory text. As a first step, the light-signalling Regulations shall be addressed.
 - (b) Identify possibilities to merge Regulations containing similar or identical provisions, such as Regulations Nos. 98 and 112 and Regulations 3, 27, 69, 70 and 104.
 - (c) Determine whether the current regulatory text presents barriers to innovation and adequately addresses safety considerations.
 - (d) Develop, unless technically not feasible, performance-based and technology-neutral requirements to ensure freedom for technical innovation within a framework of safety principles.
 - (e) Simplify, adhering to a technology-neutral approach, the Installation Regulations (Reg. Nos. 48, 53, 74 and 86). All working documents on lighting installation Regulations whose purpose is to improve the performance-based and technology-neutral approach shall be taken into account.
 - (f) Take over and consider the outcome of IWG VGL, based on the discussion document GRE-79-29 as recommended by GRE-79 (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRE/79, Par. 31).
 - (g) Draft the technical requirements for lighting and light signalling to make them suitable for implementation under the UN 1958 and 1998 agreements.

IV. Operating principles

13. The Informal Working Group on Simplification of the UN Lighting and Light Signalling Regulations is a subgroup of GRE and is open to all participants of GRE including Contracting Parties to the 1958 and 1998 Agreements and non-governmental organizations.
14. A Chair (Belgium), a Vice-Chair (European Commission) and a Secretary (GTB) will manage the informal group.
15. The official language of the informal group will be English.

16. The Secretary of the Group shall submit the agenda and related documents in a suitable electronic format in advance of all scheduled meetings. All documents shall be posted on the website (<https://wiki.unece.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=23759699>). The Group may postpone discussion on any item or proposal, which has not been circulated 5 working days in advance of the scheduled meeting.
17. The Secretary of the Group will distribute the meeting minutes to the IWG members within 15 working days after the meeting of the Group.
18. Decisions and proposals of the group shall be reached by consensus. When consensus cannot be reached the Chair of the Group shall present the different points of view to GRE. The Chair may seek guidance from GRE as appropriate.
19. Sessions shall be convened, in agreement with the majority of the participants, after the Group has been established in a constitutional meeting. Sessions may be in person and / or virtual using web-based technology and shall be scheduled to meet the timeline for deliverables
20. A provisional agenda shall be drafted by the secretariat in accordance with the participants of the Group. The first item of the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.
21. The second item on the provisional agenda shall be the discussion on matters arising and adoption of the minutes of the previous session.

V. Work plan and time schedule

STAGE 1	The objective was to update and freeze the existing device Regulations and produce three new UN Regulations (for road illumination (RID), light-signalling (LSD) and retro-reflecting devices RRD)) based on the text of existing UN Regulations.	
	This was primarily an editorial task to leave the prescriptions of the various Regulations unchanged, other than where the objectives of simplification and consolidation so required.	
	Completion at GRE 80	October 2018
	Final adoption by WP.29 of the new LSD, RID and RRD Regulations and the associated package of amendments to existing Regulations	November 2018

STAGE 2	The overarching objective is to update and harmonise the technical requirements for lighting and light signalling to be <u>suitable for global implementation under the UN 1958 and 1998 agreements.</u>	
STAGE 2 STEP 1	Revise the technical requirements of the new LSD, RID and RRD Regulations, to become technology neutral with performance-based and objective test requirements. Minor amendments will be required to the installation Regulations	
	Informal submission to GRE-82	October 2019
	Final consideration at GRE-83	April 2020
	Adoption by WP.29	November 2020
STAGE 2 STEP 2	Simplify and update the technical requirements of the UN installation Regulations (48, 53, 74, 86), to become technology neutral with performance-based and objective test requirements	
	Informal submission to GRE-86	October 2021
	Final consideration at GRE-87	April 2022
	Adoption by WP.29	November 2022