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UN Regulation No. 55 (Mechanical couplings)

### Proposal for the 02 series of amendments to UN Regulation No. 55 (Mechanical couplings)

**Submitted by the expert from the European Commission \***

The text reproduced below was prepared by the expert from the European Commission (EC) to update the provisions on removable mechanical couplings fitted to motor vehicles, in particular, for the need to provide clear information to the driver. It is based on informal document GRSG-115-34, presented at the 115<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Party on General Safety Provisions (GRSG) (see report ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSG/94, para. 30) as well as working document ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSG/2019/6, presented at the 116<sup>th</sup> session. The modifications to the current text of UN Regulation No. 43 are marked in bold characters.

\* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2018–2019 (ECE/TRANS/274, para. 123 and ECE/TRANS/2018/21/Add.1, Cluster 3.1), the World Forum will develop, harmonize and update UN regulations to enhance the performance of vehicles. The present document is submitted in conformity with that mandate.

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## I. Proposal

*Paragraph 13.*, amend to read:

### "13. Transitional provisions

~~Until the United Nations Secretary General is notified otherwise, Contracting Parties applying this Regulation that are Member States of the European Union (at the time of adoption of the 01 series of amendments, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom)\* declare that, in relation to mechanical coupling devices and components, they will only be bound by the obligations of the Agreement to which this Regulation is annexed with respect to such devices and components intended for vehicles of categories other than M<sub>1</sub>.~~

*Insert new paragraphs 13.1. to 13.5.*, to read:

- 13.1. As from the official date of entry into force of the 02 series of amendments, no Contracting Party applying this Regulation shall refuse to grant or refuse to accept type approvals under this Regulation as amended by the 02 series of amendments.
- 13.2. As from 1 September 2021, Contracting Parties applying this Regulation shall not be obliged to accept type approvals issued to the preceding series of amendments to this Regulation.
- 13.3. Notwithstanding paragraph 13.2., Contracting Parties applying this Regulation shall continue to accept type approvals of mechanical coupling devices and components issued according to the preceding series of amendments to this Regulation.
- 13.4. Notwithstanding paragraph 13.2., Contracting Parties applying this Regulation shall continue to accept type approvals issued according to the preceding series of amendments to this Regulation, for the vehicles which are not affected by the changes introduced by the 02 series of amendments.
- 13.5. Contracting Parties applying this Regulation shall not refuse to grant type approvals according to any preceding series of amendments to this Regulation or extensions thereof."

*Annex 7, paragraph 1.1.4.*, amend to read:

- "1.1.4. When the trailer ..... release key which is ~~carried in the vehicle~~ **supplied by the manufacturer. In such a case, the motor-vehicle's user instructions (e.g. owner's manual, vehicle handbook) shall clearly specify that the removable or repositionable mechanical coupling device shall always be removed or repositioned when it is not in use.**

If the installed ..."

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\* ~~Note by the secretariat: In 2015, the Member States of the European Union are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Cyprus and Romania.~~

## II. Justification

1. Since the introduction of a footnote in item "Regulation Number 55" of annex IV of General Safety Regulation (EC) No 661/2009, vehicle approvals are no longer in compliance with the General Safety Regulation if non-removable or non-repositionable ones are installed on a vehicle and when they obscure (partially) lighting components or the rear registration plate space (reference: European Union (EU) Regulation No. 523/2012 of 20 June 2012).
2. UN Regulation No. 55 still permits that the removable coupling can be locked with a key that is provided by the manufacturer, which does not promote removal or repositioning of mechanical couplings when it is not in use. In such case it may cause obscuration of lighting components or the rear registration plate.
3. To improve user awareness, clear information should be included in the instruction manual.
4. Upon request of OICA, transitional provisions are provided. For this reason, the proposal is upgraded from a supplement to a new series of amendments, to stay in line with the Guidelines on Transitional Provisions (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1044/Rev.2).

