

Terms of reference and rules of procedure for the Informal Working Group on Vehicle Indoor Air Quality (VIAQ)

Transmitted by the representative of the Republic of Korea

This document contains a proposal to establish an informal working group on Vehicle Indoor Air Quality (VIAQ). The aim is to exchange information and experiences on relevant regulations, policy measures and standardization efforts and to develop a recommendation to be annexed to R.E.3 and Special Resolution No. 1 on VIAQ.

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1. Background

- 1.1 A variety of interior materials and adhesives are used for the construction of indoor space of vehicles, using several chemical constituents as a raw material. As a result, various kinds of chemical substances may be emitted from the interior materials inside the completed vehicles. Some of the emitted chemical substances may contain components such as Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) or aldehydes that are harmful to the human body. In some circumstances, such as the early stages of vehicle life, the amounts of chemical substances emitted can be particularly high.
- 1.2 Notwithstanding deviations in the extent and a certain degree of dependency on the reaction of each individual, some of the substances that can be emitted inside vehicles are likely to have the potential to cause symptoms such as nausea, allergies, fatigue, stinging eyes and headaches. Such symptoms may not only affect drivers' health but also safe driving.
- 1.3 To protect consumers' health and safe driving from substances harmful to the human body, discussions and decisions by the international community involving recommendation to minimize emission of harmful substances upon manufacturing vehicles are necessary in a timely manner.

2. Objective

- 2.1 The VIAQ informal working group will have an open structure which will enable the exchange of information and experiences on relevant regulations, policy measures and standardization efforts.
- 2.2 Internationally several different standards already exist but the exact methods of measurements and pollutant emission requirements are still not defined under the 1958 Agreement or 1998 Agreement. The objective of this proposal is to develop a recommendation (R.E.3 and S.R.1), concerning the protection of passengers from harmful substances emitted from indoor materials used for the construction of vehicles.

- 2.3 The recommendation (R.E.3 and S.R.1) shall specify indoor air pollutant emission requirements and specifications for the materials used for the construction of vehicles having an impact on the generation of indoor air pollutants. It shall include provisions concerning the measurement of indoor air pollutant emissions.
- 2.4 The IWG shall conduct comprehensive studies for the existing individual contents regarding management of indoor air quality of vehicles. It shall draft a new recommendation to provide drivers and passengers with better driving environments for vehicles, also enabling more cost-effective management for the vehicle industry through unification of standards and measurement methods.

3. Terms of reference

- 3.1 The following terms of reference describe the main tasks of the new IWG.
- (a) Identify and collect the information and research data on indoor air quality and its relevance for vehicles, taking into account the activities being carried out by various governments, non-governmental organizations and universities.
 - (b) Identify and understand the current regulatory requirements with respect to vehicle indoor air quality in different markets.
 - (c) Identify, review and assess existing test procedures suitable for the measurement of emissions of vehicle indoor air pollutants (including sample collection methods and analysis methods, etc.)
 - (d) Develop harmonized measuring test procedures and emission limit values of indoor air pollutant inside vehicles.
 - (e) Draft a new recommendation (R.E.3 and S.R.1) under the 1958 Agreement and 1998 Agreement, concerning the protection of drivers and passengers from harmful substances emitted from indoor materials used in the construction of vehicles, including provisions on the measuring test procedures and the emission limit values.
 - (f) Stay abreast of developing issues through regular dialogue and expert presentations.

4. Timeline

- 4.1 The target completion date for the work of the informal working group and possible adoption of the recommendation (R.E.3 and S.R.1) shall be the 173rd session of WP.29 in November 2017.
- (a) Nov. 2014 : Consideration of drafted terms of reference of the proposal to establish the VIAQ informal working group by WP.29/AC.3
 - (b) Jan. 2015 : Approval of terms of reference of the VAIQ by GRPE
 - (c) Mar. 2015 : Approval of the VIAQ informal working group by WP.29
 - (d) June 2015 : First VIAQ informal working group meeting during the 71st session of GRPE
 - (e) 2015 – 2017 : Meetings of the IWG, with regular reporting to GRPE and WP.29
 - (g) June 2017 : Adoption of the recommendation on VIAQ by GRPE
 - (h) Nov. 2017 : Adoption of the recommendation on VIAQ by WP.29

5. Scope and work items

5.1 Information collection

- (a) Collect current research on vehicle indoor air quality
- (b) Review and assess existing test procedures of each regulation
- (c) Define the category of vehicles to which vehicle indoor air quality recommendations will apply

5.2 VIAQ measuring test procedure

- (a) Determine the test conditions, test apparatus and materials, whole vehicle test chamber, test vehicle conditions, measurement procedures, etc.
- (b) Set the sampling point, sampling devices, sampling procedures, analysis of samples, data processing, etc.

5.3 VIAQ emission limits

- (a) Select the types of the harmful substances and determine the limit values

6. Rules of procedure

6.1 The following rules of procedure describe the functioning principles of the new informal working group.

- (a) The IWG is open to all participants from any country or organization of WP.29 and its subsidiary bodies. A limitation of the number of participants for the IWG is not foreseen.
- (b) A Chair (Republic of Korea) and a [secretary (OICA or CLEPA)] will manage the IWG.
- (c) The official language of the IWG will be English.
- (d) All documents and/or proposals shall be submitted to the secretary of the group in a suitable electronic format, preferably in line with the UNECE guidelines in advance of the meetings. The group may refuse to discuss any item or proposal which has not been circulated 5 working days in advance of the scheduled meetings.
- (e) The informal group shall meet regularly in conjunction with the GRPE sessions, presuming the availability of meeting rooms. Additional meetings will be organized upon demand.
- (f) An agenda and related documents will be circulated to all members of the informal working group in advance of all scheduled meetings.
- (g) The work process will be developed by consensus. When consensus cannot be reached, the Chair of the informal group shall present the different points of view to GRPE. The Chair may seek guidance from GRPE as appropriate.
- (h) The progress of the informal group will be routinely reported to GRPE orally or as an informal document by the Chair or the secretary.
- (i) All working documents shall be distributed in digital format. The specific VIAQ section on the UNECE website shall continue to be utilised.