
Guidelines for application of the Unique Identifier (UI)

I. Introduction

1. This guidance document is intended to provide guidance to the approval authorities of Contracting Parties to the 1958 Agreement, their designated technical services and manufacturers on the use of the Unique Identifier (UI) in accordance with Schedule 5 of the 1958 Agreement Revision 3¹.
2. This guidance document does not alter the provisions of the 1958 Agreement and the existing UN Regulations. If there is any inconsistency between these guidelines and the text of the 1958 Agreement, the latter shall prevail.
3. For the purpose of these guidelines, “secure internet database” refers to DETA (Database for the Exchange of Type Approval documentation)

II. Main principles of the Unique Identifier

4. The Unique Identifier (hereafter called UI) is introduced by the 1958 Agreement Revision 3. If used, the UI serves as:
 - (a) A number assigned to a product upon storing the type approval(s) of that product on the secure internet database in accordance with Schedule 5 of the 1958 Agreement Revision 3. The UI is generated by the database automatically.
 - (b) An approval marking consisting of the UI number preceded by the symbol  replacing the approval marking(s) required by the UN Regulation(s) in case those UN Regulation(s) allow for it. Any leading zeros in the UI number may be omitted in the marking.
5. For the purpose of Unique Identifier, a product is a physical object or a group of physical objects consisting of one or more approved systems, components, equipment or parts and is identified by a single type approval number or by a unique combination of type approval numbers, as is typically for lamp units. There can only be one UI assigned to a product and one UI applies to one product only. Nonetheless, different products may incorporate the same components with the same type approval numbers.

To each type approval number that is uploaded to the secure internet database a UI is assigned.

On request of the manufacturer to the type approval authority a UI can be assigned to a combination of approval numbers provided that all of them have been assigned to that manufacturer.

¹ When drafting a new UN Regulation or an amendment of a UN Regulation, the subsidiary bodies of WP.29 may deviate from these guidelines where they consider it necessary and justified.

Example of a lamp unit incorporating a stop lamp, direction-indicator lamp and rear retro-reflector:

UI 1: lamp unit with E4-7R-1234, E4-6R-1234

UI 2: lamp unit with E4-7R-1234, E4-6R-1234, E4-3R-1234

UI 3: lamp unit with E4-7R-1234, E4-6R-5678, E4-3R-1234

In this case, UI's are assigned to all the different products. The UI for the product may be used as marking. By feeding the UI number into the database, all information to all of the type approval(s) as part of the product can be found.

6. The position of the UI marking on a product shall be as prescribed for the UN marking. UN markings on a product may only be combined to a single UI marking where it concerns related subjects, such as lighting or tyres.

III. General guidelines on the use of the Unique Identifier

7. For the efficient operation of the approval process, approval authorities are appealed to utilize the secure internet database established by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, for communicating to Contracting Parties notice of approval, of extension, of refusal, of withdrawal or where production is definitely discontinued of a type of wheeled vehicles, equipment or parts, including all its documentation, according to Schedule 5 of the 1958 Agreement Revision 3.
8. The approval authority where a manufacturer applies for type approval for his product is responsible for issuing the UI. The UI is generated by the database automatically in case the approval authority:
 - (a) On request of the manufacturer, 'reserves' the UI by entering a minimum set of attributes and the existing or pre-assigned type approval number(s) for that product;
 - (b) Uploads a new type approval for which a new UI is requested into the database with the corresponding attributes;
 - (c) On request of the manufacturer, assigns a new UI to a product consisting of multiple approved components by selecting type approval numbers already existing in the database.
9. For each separate product a manufacturer shall apply for a UI at only one approval authority. However, different functionalities of the product may be covered by type approvals issued by approval authorities of different Contracting Parties. The UI shall be assigned by one of those approval authorities.
10. The User Manual of the secure internet database specifies further details on the use of the database.
11. Further guidelines on the use of the UI in case of modifications of approved products or of UN Regulations are described in Annex 1.
12. Utilizing the secure internet database and using the UI as marking is on a voluntary basis, unless a UN Regulation stipulates otherwise. A UN Regulation may prohibit the use of the UI as marking for the items covered by that UN Regulation. A UN Regulation may also specify that additional symbols and information to be marked on the product can be regarded as part of the approval marking and may be replaced by the UI marking accordingly.

Annex 1

General guidelines on the use of the UI in case of modifications of approved products or of UN Regulations.

| | Product status | Regulation update | Impact on approval | Impact on conventional UN type approval marking | Impact on UI marking (when database is available) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | New product | - | New approval | Approval no('s) issued UN type approval marking(s) on the new product | Approval no('s) issued and linked to a UI UI marking on the new product |
| 2 | Modification of the product with no impact on approval | - | No impact | No impact | No impact |
| 3 | Modification of the product with impact on approval but not exceeding its type definition | - | Extension required | No impact | No impact |
| 4 | Modification of the product which exceeds its type definition | - | New approval | New approval no('s) issued New UN type approval marking(s) on the modified product | New approval no('s) issued and linked to a new UI New UI marking on the modified product |
| 5 | No modification of the product. All variants of the product included in the original approval already comply with the new series of amendments of the UN Regulation | Update of UN Regulation, new series of amendments | Extension of approval with indication of the new series of amendments | New UN type approval marking(s) on the un-modified product to indicate the new series of amendments | No impact |
| 6 | Modification of the product and all or some of its variants to comply with the new series of amendments to the UN Regulation but not exceeding its type definition | Update of UN regulation, new series of amendments | Extension of approval with indication of the new series of amendments | New UN type approval marking(s) on the modified product | New UI marking |