

Proposal for revised Terms of Reference of the Informal Working Group on Wet Grip Performance for Tyres in a Worn State

The proposed amendments to Terms of Reference of the IWG WGWT, submitted by FR, EC and ETRTO, chair, co-chair and secretary of IWG WGWT respectively, are marked in bold, for new or strike-through for deleted characters. This proposal is based on the documents ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRBP/2020/11, GRBP-73-02 and GRBP-73-08.

I. Proposal

A. Introduction

1. At the sixty-ninth session of the Working Party on Noise (GRB), it was pointed out that the wet grip performance of tyres decreases with tyre wear, so the current testing (performed on new tyres) does not represent the worst-case situation. The process of adapting the requirements on tyres should continue, in particular to ensure that tyre performance is also assessed, if relevant, at the end of a tyre's life (in worn state) and to promote the idea that tyres should meet the requirements throughout their life and not be replaced prematurely. UN Regulation No. 117 now contains detailed provisions on noise, rolling resistance and wet grip performance of tyres that can be amended to take into account some other prescriptions.
2. An informal working group was created in 2019 to define prescriptions for wet grip performance of tyres in worn state (IWG WGWT).
3. This proposal establishes the updated Terms of Reference for the IWG WGWT.
4. The aim of the group is to propose an amendment to UN Regulation No. 117 under the 1958 Agreement.

B. Objectives

5. The scope and purpose are based on ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2019/6, ~~informal document GRB-69-23 submitted by France~~ and ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRBP/7068, para. 186 ~~and Annex IV~~.
6. The future amendment to UN Regulation No. 117 will apply to new pneumatic tyres of class C1 **and will address also the suitable requirements to those of classes C2 and C3**.
7. IWG WGWT shall:
 - Consider the scope and elaborate the target;
 - **For tyres of Class C1**
 - Evaluate the method for preparing a tyre to be tested in worn state at its type-approval;
 - Define the test conditions;
 - Describe the test methods;
 - Define the type-approval thresholds of tyre wet grip performance in worn state.
 - **Address the suitable requirements for tyres of classes C2 and C3**

8. IWG WGWT shall work in the framework of the 1958 Agreement and shall report to GRBP.

C. Rules of Procedure

9. IWG WGWT shall be open to all participants of the Working Party on Noise and Tyres (GRBP).

10. IWG shall be co-chaired by France and the European Commission. The European Tyre and Rim Technical Organisation (ETRTO) shall act as Secretary.

11. The working language will be English.

12. All documents and/or proposals must be submitted to the Secretary of IWG in a suitable electronic format at least one week before a scheduled meeting.

13. An agenda and the latest draft document will be circulated to all members of IWG in advance of all scheduled meetings.

14. All IWG documentation will be made available on the dedicated ECE website.

D. Timeline

15. IWG shall aim to present a working document **on wet grip of tyres of class C1 in worn state** for adoption at the seventy-fourth session of GRBP in September 2021, **a progress report at the seventy-fifth session of GRBP in January 2022 and a working document on wet grip of tyres of classes C2 and C3 in worn state by the seventy-sixth session of GRBP in September 2022 at the latest.**

~~IWG presented a progress report at the seventy-first session of GRBP in January 2020 and shall present a progress report at the seventy-second session of GRBP in September 2020 and a comprehensive proposal at the seventy-third session of GRBP in January 2021, all including already achieved results for class C1 tyres.~~

~~**IWG shall present a progress report at the seventy-fifth session of GRBP in January 2022 and a comprehensive proposal at the seventy-sixth session of GRBP in September 2022, all including already achieved results for class C2 and C3 tyres.**~~

II. Justification

Paragraphs B5 and B6: Wet grip performance of C2 and C3 tyres in worn state is also important for vehicles safety. It is also of relevance to the Regulation (EU) 2019/2144 (General Safety Regulation), which includes in its requirements the wet grip of such tyres at worn state with reference to UNECE Regulation No 117. IWG WGWT was informed on this proposal at its 16th session of 19/11/2020.

Paragraph B.7. describes the deliverables expected from the IWG. The proposed wording allows to address the detailed deliverables related to C2 & C3 tyres that are still to be assessed and agreed upon by the IWG.

Paragraph D15: the IWG aim to present a working document to the 74th GRBP (September 2021) remains for the work scope on C1 class tyres. A working document on C2 and C3 class tyres may be submitted at the same GRBP or by the 76th GRBP (September 2022) at the latest. These documents will thus include the provisions on wet grip of tyres in worn state, which are in relevance to both UNECE Regulation No 117 and to the Regulation (EU) 2019/2144.