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UN Regulation No. 22 (Protective helmets)

Proposal for Supplement 1 to the 06 series of amendments to UN Regulation No. 22 (Protective helmets)

Submitted by the experts from France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Spain *

The text reproduced below was prepared by the Ad-Hoc group on UN Regulation No. 22. The proposal addresses the need of a text that can be enforced in a practical manner until specific requirements for the type approval of helmet accessories will be defined. The modifications to the current text of the UN Regulation are marked in strikethrough for deleted characters.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2021 as outlined in proposed programme budget for 2021 (A/75/6 (Sect.20), para 20.51), the World Forum will develop, harmonize and update UN Regulations in order to enhance the performance of vehicles. The present document is submitted in conformity with that mandate.

I. Proposal

Paragraph 7.3.1.3.5., amend to read:

"7.3.1.3.5. Helmets placed on the market with accessories shall be examined to assess that the supplementary equipment has no adverse effect and that in any case the protective helmet and/or visor still complies with all the requirements.

Note: The evaluation shall be done with and without the accessory and their support with particular attention, as example, to energy absorption, sharp edges and field of vision.

No helmet shall be modified from its original specification as manufactured. Accessories must be fitted in accordance with the helmet manufacturer's instructions. Only accessories tested and evaluated during the type approval procedure of the helmet ~~keep the type approval valid.~~ can guarantee that the performance of the modified protective helmet is covered by the type approval."

II. Justification

1. The proposed change to the text of the UN Regulation seeks to resolve the issue raised by document GRSP-67-09-Rev.1 distributed at the sixty-seventh session of the Working Party on Passive Safety (GRSP). The use of after-market products shall not affect the validity of a UN type approval. Changes introduced by customers on helmets are not covered by the UN Regulation No. 22, once the helmet has been type-approved. For the sake of legal certainty, it should be clarified that the performance of protective helmets may be affected by using accessories not tested during the type approval procedure and the helmet manufacturer shall not be liable.

2. The Terms of Reference of the Informal Working Group (IWG) on Protective Helmets addressed the work of the IWG to also tackle the matter of accessories introducing clarification on testing. The proposed change is aimed at clarifying the issue.

3. Indeed, a "real solution" addressing accessories shall be established only by including the accessory itself in the type approval procedure regardless if the accessory is tested within the type approval procedure for protective helmets. The above-mentioned "real solution", namely ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSP/2021/15, is for the time being sponsored by the experts from Italy and Spain and not yet by the ad hoc-group that agreed in principle.
