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Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Draft UN Regulation on reverse warning sound**Proposal for Supplement 1 to the draft UN Regulation on Reverse Warning****Submitted by the experts from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland***

The text reproduced below was prepared by the experts from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It amends the provisions for a pause function with the aim to comply with the national environmental (noise) restrictions. The modifications to the existing text of the draft UN Regulation (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2022/88) are marked in bold for new or strikethrough for deleted characters.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2022 as outlined in proposed programme budget for 2022 (A/76/6 (Sect.20), para 20.76), 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 14.3. and its subparagraphs, amend to read:

"14.3. Pause function

~~The manufacturer may install a pause function to disable temporarily the audible reverse warning device when a vehicle of category M₂ (M>3500 kg), N₂, M₃ or N₃ is equipped with a non-audible safety system, device(s) for means of rear visibility or detection as described in UN Regulation No. 158, paragraph 1.3, allowing the driver to check the hazard area behind the vehicle, including when towing vehicle(s) of category O, and it is ensured that such safety system(s) functions while reversing. Any other disabling function which does not satisfy the specifications below is prohibited.~~

A pause function that temporarily disables the audible reverse warning device on vehicles of category M₂ (M>3500 kg), N₂, M₃ or N₃ shall be fitted only in accordance with the following provisions so as to comply with the prevailing legal obligations on vehicle usage in contracting parties applying this regulation. In markets where no additional obligations apply to vehicle usage a pause function complying with these provisions may be fitted in addition. Any other pause function not satisfying the specifications below is prohibited.

14.3.1. ~~When the towed vehicle(s) of category O is(are) not equipped with a device for means of rear visibility or detection as described in UN Regulation No. 158, paragraph 1.3, which is valid for vehicles of category O, the activation of the pause function shall be disabled at the vehicle of category M₂ (M>3500 kg), N₂, M₃ or N₃ (the audible reverse warning device shall still be active).~~

When such a vehicle is equipped with a system that ensures the audible reverse warning device is capable of complying with national laws restricting use of reverse warning devices (for example during certain hours); or

14.3.2. ~~The pause function shall be located so that it is operable by the driver in a normal seating position.~~

When such a vehicle is equipped with a non-audible safety system or device(s) for means of rear visibility or detection as described in UN Regulation No. 158, paragraph 1.3., allowing the driver to check the hazard area behind the vehicle, including when towing vehicle(s) of category O, and it is ensured that such safety system(s) functions while reversing; or

14.3.3. ~~In the case when the pause function is activated, the suspension of reverse warning sound has to be indicated clearly to the driver.~~

When the towed vehicle(s) of category O is(are) not equipped with a device for means of rear visibility or detection as described in UN Regulation No. 158, paragraph 1.3. which is valid for vehicles of category O, the activation of the pause function shall be disabled at the vehicle of category M₂ (M>3500 kg), N₂, M₃ or N₃ (the audible reverse warning device shall still be active).

14.3.4. ~~The pause switch shall be deactivated when the vehicle is re-started following each vehicle turn-off.~~

Where the pause function is operated by the driver it shall be located so that it is operable from the driver's normal seating position.

14.3.5. **In the case when the pause function is activated, the suspension of reverse warning sound has to be indicated clearly to the driver.**

14.3.6. **The pause switch shall be deactivated when the vehicle is re-started following each vehicle turn-off.**

14.3.7. Owner's manual information

If a pause function is installed, the manufacturer shall provide the owner with information (e.g. in the owner's manual) as to the increased risks thus created:

The pause function of the audible reverse warning device shall not be used unless for an obvious lack of necessity to emit sound for warning vulnerable road users in the surrounding area."

II. Justification

1. In the United Kingdom, national legislation covering the use of vehicles on public roads requires reversing alarms to be disabled between the hours of 23:30 and 07:00 to limit noise disturbance at night.
 2. Whilst the present text of the UN Regulation on reverse warning allows manufacturers to install a pause function to fulfil national restrictions, the installation of the pause function is dependent on the vehicle being fitted with a device for rear visibility as described by UN Regulation No. 158. In the case where a rear visibility device is not installed, the option to install a pause function is not available to manufacturers. This creates a risk to contracting parties as compliance with national environmental (noise) restrictions is dependent upon the technology fitted by the vehicle manufacturer.
 3. The aim of this proposal is to ensure that users of vehicles fitted with a reverse warning can continue to comply with national restrictions irrespective of a rear visibility device being fitted.
 4. This proposal provides manufacturers the ability to install a pause function that temporarily disables the reverse alarm thereby ensuring that vehicles approved to the UN reverse warning regulation are compatible with national laws of the contracting parties.
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