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Item 16.2 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of technical regulations

to be listed in the Compendium of

Candidates for UN GTRs, if any

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard;

FMVSS No. 218 Motorcycle Helmets and its appended documentation

Request to insert in the Compendium of Candidate for UN GTR, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard; FMVSS No. 218 Motorcycle Helmets

Submitted by the representative of the United States of America*

The document reproduced below is submitted by the representative of the United States of America to the Executive Committee (AC.3) for consideration. It is a request to include in the Compendium of Candidates the FMVSS No. 218 on motorcycle helmets. In order to be considered by AC.3, this request is accompanied by a copy of the regulation mentioned (see Article 5, paras. 5.2.1., 5.2.1.1. and 5.2.2. of the 1998 Agreement).

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2024 as outlined in proposed programme budget for 2024 (A/78/6 (Sect. 20), table 20.5), 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.



Request to insert in the Compendium of Candidate for UN GTR, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard; FMVSS No. 218 Motorcycle Helmets.

1. United States of America requests to include in the Compendium of Candidates Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard; FMVSS No. 218 Motorcycle Helmets as this is currently in use in the United States of America.

I. Background

2. The Department of Transportation (DOT) FMVSS 218 standard was first introduced to address the need for consistent safety standards in motorcycle helmets. This standard establishes minimum performance requirements for helmets designed for use by motorcyclists and other motor vehicle users in order to reduce deaths and injuries to motorcyclists and other motor vehicle users resulting from head impacts. The United States of America DOT, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), announced in 1972, a draft motorcycle helmet standard. The Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 218 (FMVSS 218), which is commonly referred to as the "DOT" standard. The FMVSS 218 draft was taken almost directly from the 1971 American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard Z90.1.

II. Description of Regulation

3. NHTSA has been continuously evaluating the effectiveness of its helmet standard, FMVSS No. 218, and made several improvements. FMVSS 218 covers a wide range of aspects, including impact protection, penetration resistance, retention system effectiveness, and labeling requirements. NHTSA also clearly defined "motorcycle helmet" and improved FMVSS 218 by adding a set of dimensional and compression requirements. These performance requirements and the associated test procedures set clear safety parameters to determine whether or not the helmet complies and thus offers high level of protection to motorcycle riders in case of a crash.

III. Related documents

4. Attachments 49 CFR part 571 (up to date as of 07/19/2024) and 571.218 Standard No. 218, motorcycle helmets.
