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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)

Working Party on Noise (GRB)

**REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON NOISE (GRB)  
ON ITS FORTY-THIRD SESSION**

(21 to 23 February 2006)

ATTENDANCE

1. GRB held its forty-third session from 21 to 23 February 2006 in Geneva, under the chairmanship of Mr. D. Meyer (Germany). Experts from the following countries participated in the work following Rule 1(a) of the Rules of Procedure of WP.29 (TRANS/WP.29/690): Czech Republic; France; Germany; Hungary; India; Italy; Japan; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Republic of Korea; Republic of South Africa; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Spain; Switzerland; United Kingdom; United States of America. Representative of the European Commission (EC) participated. Experts from the following non-governmental organizations also participated: International Organization for Standardization (ISO); International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (OICA); European Association of Automobile Suppliers (CLEPA); International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA); International Road Transport Union (IRU); European Tyre and Rim Technical Organization (ETRTO); Federation of European Motorcyclists Association (FEMA). Upon the special invitation of the Chairman, an expert from the Motorcycle Riders Foundation (MRF) participated.

2. The documents without a symbol distributed during the session are listed in Annex 1 to this report.

1. 1958 AGREEMENT: AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING UNECE REGULATIONS

1.1. Regulation No. 41 – (Noise of motorcycles)

1.1.1. Development

3. The expert from Italy, Mr. A. Erario, chairing the informal working group on motorcycle noise emissions, informed GRB about the group's progress of work and the results of the fifth meeting held in Geneva on 20 (afternoon only) and 21 (morning only) February 2006, prior to the GRB session proper. He stated that the informal group agreed in principle on the new test method. He announced the group's intention to start a testing programme, coordinated by IMMA, aiming at setting up a complete database. He added that the agenda, working papers and reports of that informal meeting could be consulted on the WP.29/GRB informal group's website address: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp29/wp29wgs/wp29grb/R41-5th.html>.

4. GRB agreed with Mr. Erario's suggestion to hold the next informal meeting on 24 April 2006 (morning only) in Geneva, prior to the ninetieth GRSG session.

1.2. Regulation No. 51 – (Noise of M and N categories of vehicles)

Documentation: Informal document No. GRB-42-1 of Annex 1 to the previous report.

5. The expert from the Russian Federation recalled the purpose of GRB-42-1. He reiterated his position that the engine and its noise reduction system durability requirements in the Regulation were too general and, therefore, not applicable in practice. GRB invited him to prepare an official proposal specifying provisions for durability requirements. GRB agreed to resume consideration of this subject at its next session in September 2006 on the basis of a concrete proposal by the Russian Federation.

1.2.1. Development

6. Regarding the insertion of the new noise test measurement method into Regulation No. 51, the expert from the European Commission (EC) informed that the EC had transmitted an alternative proposal, to that had been adopted by GRB, directly to WP.29 and AC.1 for consideration at their March 2006 sessions (see ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2006/31). He was of the opinion that more test data were necessary in order to elaborate new sound limit values for the new noise test measurement method. For that purpose, the EC proposal would require mandatory vehicle testing according to both, the existing and the new noise measurement methods.

1.2.1.1. New sound limit values

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2006/2; ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2006/4; informal document No. GRB-43-4 of Annex 1 to this report.

7. Recognizing that the vehicle classification suggested by the EC in their alternative proposal (para. 6 above) being different from that in the original proposal adopted by GRB

(ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2006/4), GRB agreed to postpone consideration of this subject to its next session in September 2006.

#### 1.2.1.2. Proposal for interim amendments to the Regulation

Documentation: Informal document No. GRB-42-13 of Annex 1 to the previous report.

8. GRB acknowledged that GRB-42-13 was closely linked with the further development of Regulation No. 51 (see paras. 6 to 7) and agreed to also defer this subject at its next session.

#### 1.2.1.3. Additional sound emission provisions (ASEP)

9. The expert from the Netherlands, Mr. B. Kortbeek, chairing the informal group on additional sound emission provisions (ASEP), informed GRB about the group's progress of work. He reported on the results of the meetings held in Amsterdam, on 7 and 8 November 2005, and in the Hague, on 23 and 24 January 2006. He added that the informal group had agreed that ASEP provisions would not be applicable to all new vehicle types of categories M<sub>1</sub> and N<sub>1</sub>. He announced that the informal group would submit a concrete proposal regarding the ASEP test method to GRB for consideration at the next session.

#### 1.2.2. Stationary test for four-wheelers.

Documentation: Informal documents Nos. GRB-43-2 and GRB-43-5 of Annex 1 to this report.

10. The expert from ISO presented GRB-43-5 complementing GRB-43-2 and proposing to align current stationary vehicle noise test requirements with those provided in draft international standard ISO/DIS 5130. He expected that by September 2006 internal ISO procedures would be completed and that the final version of the standard would then be available. GRB noted some comments and agreed in principle on the proposal. The expert from ISO volunteered to transmit a final document for consideration at the next GRB session.

#### 1.3. Regulation No. 59 - (Replacement silencing systems)

Documentation: Informal document No. GRB-43-3 of Annex 1 to this report.

11. The expert from CLEPA introduced GRB-43-3 proposing to revise the current text of the Regulation and to align the existing requirements with the new noise test measurement method to be introduced in Regulation No. 51. Following the discussion, GRB supported the proposal in principle. The expert from CLEPA volunteered to prepare an updated proposal for consideration at the next GRB session. The Chairman invited the experts to send their comments to this subject, in due time, to the CLEPA secretariat (techsec@clepa.be).

1.4. Regulation No. 92 – (Replacement silencing systems for motorcycles)

Documentation: TRANS/WP.29/2005/104.

12. Upon the request of WP.29 (TRANS/WP.29/1047, para. 59), GRB reconsidered TRANS/WP.29/2005/104 regarding draft amendments to Regulation No. 92 in order to ensure that the replacement silencing systems should fulfil not only the requirements for the noise level, but also the pollution requirements according to the type approval of the vehicle. As no objection was raised, GRB agreed to re-submit the proposal back to WP.29 and AC.1.

1.5. REGULATION No. 117 - (Tyre rolling noise)

1.5.1. Tyre adhesion requirements (wet grip)

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/2005/11/Rev.1; informal document No. GRB-43-1 of Annex 1 to this report.

13. Regarding the recent discussions in GRRF concerning the elaboration of a proposal for the insertion of wet grip requirements in Regulation No. 117, GRB noted that GRRF had followed the decision of WP.29 during its November 2005 session (TRANS/WP.29/1047, paras. 32 and 36) to allow approvals either for noise or for noise and wet grip only. GRRF had adopted ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/2005/11/Rev.1, as amended (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/59, paras. 20 to 22 and Annex 5 to the report (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/59/Add.1)). It had been transmitted to GRB for endorsement (GRB-43-1).

14. The expert from Italy supported the technical provisions laid down in GRB-43-1. However, he pointed out that paragraph 1.2. of the proposal did not allow Contracting Parties to apply only wet grip provisions without granting type approvals for tyre rolling sound emissions. Recalling the discussion during the previous GRB session, he reminded that such a restriction was supported by a few Contracting Parties and that a large number of delegations, however, preferred to have a more flexible concept, i.e. to allow Contracting Parties to grant also type approvals according to the wet grip provisions only. The experts from France and ETRTO supported this position. The expert from the United States of America stated that wet grip requirements were directly linked with safety issues. He added that the mandatory requirement to comply also with the tyre noise requirements might be problematic for those Contracting Parties that were interested in the safety aspect of this Regulation only. Therefore, safety requirements and environmental requirements should be separated in principle.

15. GRB endorsed the GRRF document without amendments. GRB agreed with the Chairman's suggestion to inform WP.29 at the March 2006 session that without the possibility of type approval of wet grip requirements independently from the noise approval, some Contracting Parties could have problems for applying Regulation No. 117 (see para. 14 above).

16. With regard to the elaboration of the global technical regulation (gtr) on tyres, the expert from ETRTO stated that the mandatory application of wet grip requirements with the sound emission requirements in Regulation No. 117 might delay the development of the gtr. He

added that Contracting Parties to the 1998 Agreement would prefer a more flexible application of the wet grip provisions according to their local needs.

#### 1.5.2. Rolling sound requirements for retreaded tyres

17. GRB was informed about the ongoing work by the European Association of the Rubber Industry (BLIC) and the Bureau International Permanent des Associations de Vendeurs et Rechapeurs de pneu (BIPAVER) concerning a proposal for the extension of the scope of Regulation No. 117 to retreaded tyres and the elaboration of appropriate test methods. GRB agreed to keep this subject on its agenda.

#### 1.5.3. Draft Corrigendum to the Regulation

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2006/3.

18. The EC expert introduced ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRB/2006/3 proposing to align the provisions for the designation of laboratories to those laid down in EU Directive 2005/11/EC. GRB adopted the document, not amended, and requested the secretariat to transmit it, as Corrigendum 2 to the original version of Regulation No. 117, to WP.29 and AC.1 for consideration at their June 2006 sessions.

### 2. 1997 AGREEMENT: AMENDMENTS TO RULE No. 1

19. GRB noted that GRPE adopted, during its fifty-first session, Revision 1 to Rule No. 1 in order to align, in a first step, the exhaust emission provisions of Rule No. 1 with those of the EU Directive 96/96/EC, as amended (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRPE/51, para. 46). The expert from the Netherlands added that, in the second step, the requirements for noise emissions should be elaborated. In this respect, GRB agreed to keep this subject on its agenda.

### 3. 1998 AGREEMENT: ELABORATION OF A NEW GTR ON NOISE

20. GRB noted that the terms of reference for the informal group on development of a gtr on vehicle noise emissions were not yet available. Referring to the pending issues concerning the further development of Regulation No. 51 (paras. 6 and 7), the expert from the United States of America was of the opinion that, at the present time, it was premature to prepare terms of reference for this informal group since the decision of WP.29, regarding further elaboration of Regulation No. 51, was not yet taken. GRB agreed to request the WP.29 and AC.3 consent to develop a new gtr on noise. It was also agreed to resume consideration of this subject at its next session, subject to the decisions to be taken by WP.29 and AC.3 at their March 2006 sessions (see ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1050, para. 101).

### 4. LOW FREQUENCY NOISE EMISSIONS

Documentation: Informal document No. GRB-42-12 of Annex 1 to the previous report.

21. In the absence of any new information on the subject, GRB agreed to conclude discussions on GRB-42-12 and to remove this subject from its agenda.

5. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS ON NOISE LEVELS

22. The expert from the United States of America underlined the importance of the influence of the road surface to tyre rolling sound emissions. He indicated that the influence of road construction should not be ignored during the future considerations on tyre rolling sound emissions. The expert from the United Kingdom supported that position and volunteered to prepare for the next GRB session a presentation on this subject in cooperation with the expert from the EC. The experts from Germany and the Netherlands also announced to prepare presentations regarding existing programmes and research projects related to this subject. Taking into account the wide support of the delegations, GRB agreed to insert in the agenda a new item on the influence of road surface on tyre rolling sound emissions.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1. Scenario calculations on the effect of different source reduction on road vehicles

Documentation: Informal document No. GRB-43-6 of Annex 1 to this report.

23. The GRB followed with interest a presentation by the expert from Norway (GRB-43-6) regarding scenario calculations on the effect of different source reduction on road vehicles. The expert from the United States of America welcomed that presentation and suggested that, in such calculations, the vehicle fleet growth as well as the share of the hybrid and electric vehicles in the total fleet should be taken into account. GRB agreed to insert in the agenda a new item dealing with exchange of views on vehicle noise reduction calculation methods.

6.2. Tributes to Ms. H. Schroeder

24. Learning that Ms. Heike Schroeder (Germany) was going to leave her current post in the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, GRB acknowledged her positive contributions and technical expertise during the GRB sessions, and wished her a great success in her new position.

7. AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

25. The secretariat proposed the following provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of GRB, scheduled to be held in Geneva from 4 (starting at 14.30h) to 6 (concluding at 17.30h) September 2006 1/:

1. 1958 Agreement: Amendments to existing UNECE Regulations
  - 1.1. Regulation No. 41 – (Noise of motorcycles)
    - 1.1.1. Development
    - 1.2. Regulation No. 51 – (Noise of M and N categories of vehicles)
      - 1.2.1. Development
        - 1.2.1.1. New sound limit values
        - 1.2.1.2. Proposal for interim amendments to the Regulation
        - 1.2.1.3. Additional sound emission provisions (ASEP)
      - 1.2.2. Stationary test for four-wheelers
    - 1.3. Regulation No. 59 – (Replacement silencing systems)
    - 1.4. Regulation No. 117 (Tyre rolling noise)
      - 1.4.1. Extension of the scope of the Regulation to retreaded tyres
  2. 1997 Agreement: Amendments to Rule No. 1
  3. 1998 Agreement: Elaboration of a new gtr on noise
  4. Exchange of information on national and international requirements on noise levels
  5. Exchange of views on vehicle noise reduction calculation methods
  6. Influence of road surface on tyre rolling sound emissions
  7. Election of officers
  8. Other business

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1/ As part of the secretariat's efforts to reduce expenditure, all the official documents as well as the informal documents distributed prior to the session, by mail or placed on the UNECE WP.29 website, would not be available in the conference room for distribution to session participants. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to the meeting. (The WP.29 website address is: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/welcwp29.htm> select GRB and find "Working Documents" as well as "Informal Documents"). For the translation of the above-mentioned official documents, delegates can now access the new public Official Document System (ODS) at the website address: <http://documents.un.org>

Annex 1LIST OF INFORMAL DOCUMENTS **GRB-43-...** DISTRIBUTED WITHOUT AN OFFICIAL SYMBOL DURING THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF GRB

No.	Transmitted by	Agenda item	Language	Title	Follow-up
1.	Secretariat	1.5.1.	E	Proposal for draft amendments to Regulation No. 117	(c)
2.	ISO	1.2.2.	E	Measurement of the sound emitted by stationary vehicles	(c)
3.	CLEPA	1.3.	E	Draft revision of Regulation No. 59	(c)
4.	Netherlands	1.2.1.1.	E	Proposal for limit values connected to D/ISO proposal for Regulation No. 51	(a)
5.	ISO	1.2.2.	E	Measurement of the sound emitted by stationary vehicles	(c)
6.	Norway	6.	E	Scenario calculations on the effect of different source reduction on road vehicles	(c)

Reconsideration of informal documents from the previous GRB session  
(referring to agenda item and follow-up decision of the current session)

No.	Transmitted by	Agenda item	Language	Title	Follow-up
42-1	Russian Federation	1.2.	E/R	Concerning development of type approval procedures related to verification of conformity of certified parameters	(c)
42-12	Netherlands	4.	E	Low frequency noise	(c)
42-13	Netherlands	1.2.1.2.	E	Proposal for interim amendment of Regulation No. 51.02	(a)

Notes:

- (a) Continue consideration at the next GRB session as an informal document.
- (b) Continue consideration at the next GRB session as an official document.
- (c) Consideration completed or to be superseded.



Annex 2

INFORMAL WORKING GROUPS OF GRB

<u>Informal group</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Motor vehicle noise emissions (Regulation No. 51)	Mr. Ch. Theis (Germany) Tel: (+49-228) 300-5343 Fax: (+49-228) 300-807-5343 E-mail: christian.theis@ bmvbs.bund.de	Mr. H.P. Bietenbeck Tel.: (49) 221/90-32409 Fax : (49) 221/90-32760 E-mail: hbietenb@ford.com
Motorcycle noise emissions (Regulation No. 41)	Mr. A. Erario (Italy) Tel: (+39-06) 4158-6228 Fax: (+39-06) 4158-3253 E-mail: antonio.erario@ infrastrutturetrasporti.it	Mr. P. Chesnel Tel: (+41-22) 920-2120 Fax: (+41-22) 920-2121 E-mail: pchesnel@ immamotorcycles.org
Additional sound emission provisions (ASEP)	Mr. B. Kortbeek (Netherlands) Tel: (+31-70) 339-4526 Fax: (+31-70) 339-1280 E-mail: boudewijn.kortbeek@ minvrom.nl	Mr. H.P. Bietenbeck Tel.: (49) 221/90-32409 Fax : (49) 221/90-32760 E-mail: hbietenb@ford.com

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