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Item 17.2 of the provisional agenda

Progress on the development of new global technical regulations and of amendments to established global technical regulations – Gtr No. 7 (Head restraints)**First progress report of the informal group on Phase 2 of gtr No. 7 (Head restraints)****Submitted by the representative of Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ***

This document contains the first progress report of the informal group on the development of Phase 2 of global technical regulation No. 7 (Head restraints). It is based on the text of informal document No. WP.29-151-13 distributed during the 151st session of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1085, para. 84). It is submitted to WP.29 and the Executive Committee (AC.3) of the 1998 Agreement for consideration. This report should be appended to the amendment of the gtr in the Global Registry.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2006–2010 (ECE/TRANS/166/Add.1, programme activity 02.4), the World Forum will develop, harmonize and update Regulations in order to enhance the performance of vehicles. The present document is submitted in conformity with that mandate.

I. Objective of this proposal

1. The representative of Japan proposed the development of Phase 2 of gtr No. 7. The amendments proposed by the United State of America were incorporated in the proposal.¹ He also proposed the establishment of an informal group for the development of this Phase. The informal group received the mandate to discuss appropriate methods for testing and evaluating injuries due to rear impact crashes.

II. Background

2. At its 143rd session in November 2007, the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) agreed to provide guidance to the Working Party on Passive Safety (GRSP) for the development of the draft gtr on head restraints (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1064, para. 81) and that Phase 2 of the gtr should consider, as indicated in informal document No. WP.29-143-23-Rev.1, the following issues:

- (a) The head restraint height of 850 mm;
- (b) The appropriate dynamic test, including the test procedure, injury criteria and the associated corridors for the biofidelic rear impact dummy II (BioRID II).

3. At its 148th session, in June 2009, the Executive Committee of the 1998 Agreement (AC.3) agreed on the two-step approach suggested by the representatives of the United Kingdom and of the United States of America. This approach will consider whether BioRID II can more effectively address injuries occurring in low speed rear impact crashes and focus on reducing injuries in higher speed rear impact crashes as a second step.

4. To address minor neck injuries (maximum abbreviated injury scale 1 (MAIS)) that occur in low speed rear impact crashes, insurance industry groups, such as the International Insurance Whiplash Prevention Group (IIWPG) (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) and Thatcham), have been conducting dynamic evaluations of seats. The European new car assessment programme (EuroNCAP) introduced dynamic evaluations of seats in 2008, and the Japanese new car assessment programme (JNCAP) introduced dynamic evaluations of seats in 2009. However, the testing and evaluation methods vary from one programme to another. Additionally, the European Enhanced Vehicle-safety Committee (EEVC) Working Group 12 has been investigating the appropriate dynamic test, to address minor injuries in low speed crashes, including the test procedure, injury criteria and the associated corridors for the BioRID II dummy.

5. At its June 2009 session, AC.3 gave its consent to establish the informal group, under the chairmanship of the United Kingdom and with the technical sponsorship by Japan, to evaluate whether the BioRID II dummy can be adopted into gtr No. 7 to assess the protection against low speed rear impact injuries.

6. At higher speed rear impact crashes ($\Delta V \geq 18$ km/h), there are as many minor injuries as recorded in the low speed crashes and there are a significant number of more severe injuries MAIS 2 and MAIS 3 occurring in some countries. The United States of America is currently evaluating several dummies and a dynamic test that could address these injuries. As a second step, AC.3 will resume consideration of development of a high speed test at its November 2010 session.

¹ ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2008/115, ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2009/47 and ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2009/48

7. At its 149th session, in November 2009, Japan submitted to AC.3 a proposal for the development of amendments to the gtr, prepared jointly with the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and the revised timetable. AC.3 agreed to develop the amendment to the gtr. As a first step, the amendment work will focus on developing a low speed dynamic test using the BioRID II dummy. Regarding the head restraint height, as a first step the procedures for defining the effective height will be considered. Detailed discussions on dummies will be conducted by a Technical Evaluation Group (TEG), which is to be established under the auspices of the informal group. Drawings detailing the uniform specification of the test tools will be developed and provided to the Secretariat as reference material.

III. Subjects for review and tasks to be undertaken (terms of reference)

8. With regard to head restraint height, the informal group should decide:
 - (a) How to define the effective height;
 - (b) The height requirements.
9. With regard to low speed dynamic test, the informal group should:
 - (a) Define test conditions that reflect accidents in the real world, including the performance of seat backs and head restraints as a system:
 - (i) Tests conducted on the whole vehicle as available on the market, and/or on production seats mounted on sleds;
 - (ii) Number and conditions of sled pulses.
 - (b) Working within the accepted knowledge concerning the mechanism of minor neck injury and other rear impact injuries, identify parameters that may be used to advance developments in occupant protection through, for example:
 - (i) Analyzing accidents;
 - (ii) Performing volunteer tests (low speed only) and simulations with human body finite elements (FE) models.
 - (c) Evaluate dummies that reflect the above mechanism with high fidelity to the human body and which demonstrate an acceptable level of perfection as a measuring instrument:
 - (i) In particular, the dummy evaluations shall include an assessment of their biofidelity in the critical areas associated with the safety technology under review, their repeatability and their reproducibility;
 - (ii) Define the dummy sitting conditions to minimise variation in test results;
 - (iii) Harmonize the test dummy and calibration test.
 - (d) Evaluate indicators of human body injury that reflect the minor neck and other rear impact injury mechanisms:
 - (i) For example, measure the relative movement between the upper and lower parts of the neck and the forces applied to each of these parts.
 - (e) Define reference values which should be based on the results of injury risk analysis and feasibility studies.

10. With regard to evaluation, the informal group should evaluate the effects on reduction of injury and cost-effectiveness of the proposals.

IV History of the discussions

11. Head Restraint Height

The Netherlands proposed to measure the height by combining it with the backset in order to ensure the effectiveness of head restraints for tall occupants. At the second informal group meeting, the Netherlands pointed out that the backset is not considered under the methods of the current UNECE Regulation No. 17, EuroNCAP, and IIWPG and proposed a new evaluation method that combines the height and backset. In this evaluation method, measurements are performed at the center only. Measurements according to this evaluation method would require the height to be raised by about 40 mm. Some issues related to this method were pointed out, such as remaining uncertainties, reproducibility/repeatability, and hindrance to rear visibility. The Netherlands will review the concept of the proposed test method and to submit, as necessary, any revisions to the proposal by August 2010.

12. Dynamic Evaluation Method

Number and conditions of sled pulses for the low speed dynamic test

The results of accident analysis and accident simulation tests indicate that, for reducing permanent disabilities, it is appropriate to set the sled pulse at Euro Cap's medium waveform between $\Delta V=16$ km/h and 22 km/h. However, it has been found that in the repeatability test at 20 km/h the result largely varies due to variations in the seat deformation. In the future, improvements in reproducibility and repeatability will be studied using a new dummy calibration method. Two proposed speeds, 16 km/h (same as Phase 1) and 18 km/h (with consideration of permanent disabilities), are scheduled to be discussed in September 2010 together with evaluation indicators.

13. Accident analysis

In Japan, rear impact crashes account for 31 per cent of all traffic collisions, and 92 per cent of these result in minor neck injuries based on all accident macro analyses. As for the crash speed, the accidents occur most frequently at $\Delta V=15$ km/h and below, which can be seen in about 60 per cent of all cases. Even at $\Delta V=20$ km/h and above, AIS2+ neck injuries account for 2 per cent only, and most of the resulting injuries (60 per cent or more) are AIS1 neck injuries. In recent years, the number of permanent disabilities has been increasing, and they occur most frequently at $\Delta V=16-22$ km/h, however, these ΔV analyses are based on small accident numbers micro analyses.

14. Evaluation Indicator and Reference Value

- (a) Japan gave a presentation at the "meeting of interested experts" that met in advance of the establishment of the informal group. It had been found in the results of the past studies on neck injuries and volunteer tests that there are correlations between neck strains/strain rates and occurrences of injuries. Risk curves for each case were created based on the results of accident analysis and simulations. Injury indicators that have high correlations with strains/strain rates and can be measured using dummies were extracted. As a result, relationships between strain rates and NIC and between neck strains and neck force (Upper & Lower Fx, Fz, My) were shown, and their risk curves were created. Japan proposes that these be used as the basis for injury criteria. For some indicators no risk curve could be drawn and other alternative indicators were used.

- (b) In addition to Japan's proposal above, there is another proposal on evaluation indicators: EEVC's proposal for dynamic backset, submitted at Phase 1. Discussions to choose the better proposal, including the proposed acceptance thresholds, are scheduled for September 2010.

15. Dummies

Discussions on dummies had been conducted as part of the Global BioRID Users Meetings (GBUM) activities up to the first informal meeting. However, starting with the second meeting, the GBUM activities were incorporated into those of the TEG who hold web meeting approximately once a month.

16. Biofidelity

- (a) At the "meeting of interested experts", the current status of the study by EEVC Working Group 12 (WG12) and WG20 and results of discussions on biofidelity were reported. The biofidelity in volunteer tests at 7-9 km/h was verified using qualitative procedures and quantitative core method, and BioRID II presented the best results.
- (b) The United States of America reported on the progress of its studies on the biofidelity of dummies and injury mechanisms for the evaluation of AIS3+ injuries in mid- and high-speed rear impact crashes. Based on their results, a seat for sled tests was created. In addition, the biofidelity was compared with data from post-mortem human surrogate (PMHS) experiments, BioRID, RID3D, and Hybrid III to determine the most appropriate dummy. Further, the injury mechanisms were examined to determine and verify the instrumentation to the spine and to define the injury behavior.
- (c) At the second informal meeting, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reported the progress of its research. To define the injury movement, the rear impact test was conducted, using the test seat, at 24 km/h with a deceleration of 10.5g. The test was also performed at 16.7 km/h and 8.5g. The PMHS test is also being conducted, and it is scheduled to be completed in October 2010.
- (d) The informal group is focused on delivering a single harmonised approach, but depending on the result the BioRID procedure may have to be introduced as an option alongside Hybrid III with each Contracting Party specifying their dummy of choice (Hybrid III or BioRID II).

17. New head restraint measurement device (HRMD) drawing

- (a) The current H-point machine is defined in Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) SAE J826, and the HRMD was developed in the 90s. For either machine, there are large variations in products available on the market, resulting in variations in the backset measurements.
- (b) At the 2nd informal meeting, the result of research conducted by the German manufacturer's association (VDA) was introduced. VDA developed a new H-point machine and a testing jig called Dilemma by taking the average of many H-point machines and harmonizing it with the SAE standard. For this, it is scheduled to issue the VDA specifications in February 2010, propose it to the SAE standard.

VDA and SAE are continuing to discuss these proposals with a status report being ready for consideration in September 2010.

18. Dummy drawings (2D & 3D)

At the first and second informal meetings, the progress of the drawing harmonization by Denton and First Technology Safety Systems (FTSS) was reported. The 2D drawing (PDF form), 3D drawing (STEP form), and user's manual are scheduled to be created jointly between the two manufacturers. The draft drawing package is scheduled to be submitted to the informal group by September 2010. However, the user's manual will be created after the certification method is complete.

19. Certification procedures

- (a) At the "meeting of interested experts", the history of discussions on the new certification test at GBUM and the summary of those discussions were presented. As regards the new certification test, tests were completed in Korea, Japan, the United States of America, and Europe. The sled waveform has become more flat, showing good reproducibility. At the second informal meeting, it was proposed to change the calibration waveform in order to match the EuroNCAP medium pulse and dummy input. However, the Chairman commented that since the Terms of Reference (ToR) of these gr states that our objective is to specify the uniform method for evaluating low speed impacts and the low speed is defined as $\Delta V18$ km/h or below, we should aim the sled waveform at around 16-18 km/h and discuss the calibration waveform based on the current proposal (GBUM2009).
- (b) At the third meeting, the BioRID TEG reported on the new certification test method with the head restraint. While the development is heading in the right direction, there are concerns that the head to head restraint contact time is a little too short (10-20 ms) and it is therefore scheduled to continue to discuss this in September 2010.

20. Repeatability and reproducibility

- (a) In testing, good repeatability is obtained if the same dummy is used. However, there are problems with reproducibility among different dummies. Work to establish a common build level for the BioRID IIg, together with improvements to the dummies and revisions of certification tests are being discussed to improve the repeatability and reproducibility.
- (b) At the third meeting, Japan reported the results of the new dummy calibration methods and sled tests. The same variations in LowerFz that had been seen in the new certification test method with the simulated head restraint were also observed in the sled tests. Accordingly, it is considered effective to use the head restraint in the certification test, especially to minimise variations around the contact time. However, there are differences in absolute values between certification and sled tests, so will be discussed further September 2010.

21. Dummy seating conditions

- (a) At the "meeting of interested experts" and at the first informal meeting, regarding the seating procedures of IWPG and EuroNCAP, Japan made proposals on:
 - (i) Design reference torso angle,
 - (ii) Reduction of backset tolerance, and

- (iii) Special adjustment in the case of smaller torso angle (more upright) seats typically used in small N₁ vehicles (especially those with forward control), and explained the reasons for the proposals (GTR7-01-09e).
- (b) At the second informal meeting, Japan reported that in general the torso angle is at about 15° in trucks and vans, and it proposed to specify an optional spine angle to accommodate these upright seats. Denton Inc. (a manufacturer of BioRID) presented a new spine comb to set the dummy for a more erect seating posture. The appropriateness of the dummy when set to this condition is being evaluated.
- (c) At the third meeting, regarding the standard seating posture, basic agreement was reached on adopting the design reference angle proposed by Japan on condition that Japan would summarize and report the results of the past JNCAP studies by October 2010.
- (d) Japan reported the results of tests that it had conducted to study the new tool for upright postures using a smaller torso angle (10°) for commercial vehicles. It was found that while the dummy spine could be set to the revised posture when the dummy is equipped with its jacket, its upright posture will tilt forward largely and it is unable to keep its head fully horizontal. For this reason, it was decided that, for applying the upright posture tool, development of the jacket, etc. will be undertaken as a second step, after confirming that the number of applicable vehicles on the market is small. This will be discussed in September 2010.

22. Dummy Durability

The neck damper was damaged in Korea only, when the new calibration test procedures were performed. Ford pointed out that it is necessary to add a body block to the calibration sled to prevent damage to dummies. The specific measure to be taken will be determined by the manufacturer and reported to the TEG by July 2010.

V. Work schedule

23. First step (under the chairmanship of the United Kingdom and with the technical sponsorship of Japan)

Working Groups	Dates	Venue
“meeting of interested experts”	2009/11/6	Washington D.C., United States of America
1st informal meeting	2009/12/8	Geneva, Switzerland
2nd informal meeting	2010/2/2-3	Tokyo, Japan
3rd informal meeting	2010/5/17	Geneva, Switzerland
4th informal meeting	2010/9/21-22	Germany
5th informal meeting	2010/12	Geneva, Switzerland
6th informal meeting	2011/1	
7th informal meeting	2011/5	Geneva, Switzerland

Step 1

Tasks	Dates
At the 145 session of WP.29, Japan officially proposed to set up Phase 2 of the Head Restraint gtr.	2008/6
At WP.29/AC.3, it was proposed to establish the informal group.	2009/6
At WP.29/AC.3, TOR was approved.	2009/11
1st progress report to GRSP	2010/5
1st progress report to WP.29/AC.3	2010/11
2nd progress report to GRSP	2010/12
3rd (final) progress report to GRSP; official proposal for low-speed requirements submitted	2011/5
2nd progress report to WP.29/AC.3	2011/6
Proposal for low-speed requirements adopted at WP.29	2011/11

Step 2 (Dummy and seating procedure for upright seat)

Tasks	Dates
TBD	TBD

24. Second step (High-speed requirements) (under the chairmanship of (TBD) and with the technical sponsorship by the United States of America)

Tasks	Dates
Draft TOR submitted to GRSP	2010/5
Establishment of high-speed test methods to be decided at WP.29	2010/11

25. Documents for the meetings

WM-0-1	1st Dummy TEG Attendance list
WM-0-2	EEVC presentation
WM-0-3	(JASIC/Japan) BioRID seating position
WM-0-4	(Denton) BioRID II user's meeting
WM-0-5	(First technology) Whiplash updates
WM-0-6	(Japan) Neck injury criteria risk
WM-0-7	(NHTSA) VRTC rear impact
WM-0-8	Rear impact task definition
GTR7-01-02	(JASIC/Japan) Proposal for BioRIID II dummy standardization activity for gtr No.7- Phase2
GTR7-01-03	(The Netherlands) Front contact surface
GTR7-01-04	Comparisons for different Spine adjustment
GTR7-01-05	(Japan) Schedule of Head Restraint gtr Phase-2 Informal Working Group
GTR7-01-06	(Denton) Global BioRID-II User's Meeting
GTR7-01-07	(Republic of Korea) GTR No.7 2nd Phase Research Results
GTR7-01-08	Terms of reference of the informal group on Head Restraints phase 2

GTR7-01-09	(JASIC/Japan) BioRID II seating proposal
GTR7-01-10	Draft minutes of the 1st Informal Working Group Meeting for gtr No. 7 – Head Restraints Phase 2
GTR7-02-01	Draft agenda of the 2nd Informal Working Group Meeting for gtr No. 7 – Head Restraints Phase 2
GTR7-02-02	(LEAR) HPM Variations
GTR7-02-03	(LEAR) HRMD Variations
GTR7-02-04	(AUDI) New HPM and HRMD Standards
GTR7-02-05	(VDA) Certification of the H-Pt. and Backset measuring equipment and its calibration
GTR7-02-06	(First technology) Global BioRID-II User's Meeting
GTR7-02-07	(First technology) Seat/Head Restraint Test Sled Pulse Summary
GTR7-02-08	(NHTSA) Rear Impact Dummy Biofidelity
GTR7-02-09	(First technology) BioRID II Drawing Harmonization
GTR7-02-10	(First technology) Seat/Head Restraint Test Sled Pulse Summary
GTR7-02-11	(Chalmers) BioRID new certification procedure
GTR7-02-12	(Denton) Background of GBUM certification test
GTR7-02-13	(Denton) Pulse feasibility investigation
GTR7-02-14	(Denton) New dummy head
GTR7-02-15	(The Netherlands) Head Restraints Static Height and Backset Measurement
GTR7-02-16	(JASIC/Japan) Crash pulse research status based on Japan accident research and vehicle rear impact test
GTR7-02-17	(JASIC/Japan) Japan research activities for new bio rid ii calibration method in the gtr-7 phase 2 iwg
GTR7-02-18	(The Netherlands) Head Restraints Static Height and Backset Measurement
GTR7-02-xx	(JASIC/Japan) Bio RID II Smaller Design Torso Angle seat seating trial
GTR7-02-xx	(JASIC/Japan) Repeatability and Reproducibility study with new Bio RID II calibration method
TEGID-01	(first technology) Seat/Head Restraint Test Sled Pulse Summary
TEGID-02	(Denton) Global BioRID-II User's Meeting
GRSP-47-17/Rev1	(Japan) Head restraint gtr Phase2 Status and Open issues
