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World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations

Working Party on Lighting and Light-Signalling

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Item 4(j) of the provisional agenda

REGULATION No. 48

(Installation of lighting and light-signalling devices)

Clarifications on installation requirements

Proposal for draft amendments to Regulation No. 48

Submitted by the expert from the United Kingdom */

The text reproduced below was prepared by the expert from the United Kingdom in order to clarify in Regulation No. 48 the fitment of "Courtesy lamps", provided they comply with basic requirements concerning the colour of light emitted in all positions. The modifications to the existing text of the Regulation are marked in **bold** characters.

*/ 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 performance of vehicles. The present document is submitted in conformity with that mandate.

A. PROPOSAL

Insert a new paragraph 2.7.29., to read:

"2.7.29. Exterior Courtesy lamp" means a lamp used to provide supplementary illumination of the road to assist the entry and exit of the vehicle driver and passenger;"

Paragraphs 5.10. to 5.10.2., amend to read:

"5.10. No red light ~~which could give rise to confusion~~ shall be emitted from a lamp as defined in paragraph 2.7. in a forward direction and no white light ~~which could give rise to confusion, other than from the reversing lamp~~, shall be emitted from a lamp as defined in paragraph 2.7. in a rearward direction. No account shall be taken of lighting devices fitted for the interior lighting of the vehicle. In case of doubt, this requirement shall be verified as follows:

5.10.1. For the visibility of red light towards the front of a vehicle, with the exception of a red rearmost side-marker lamp, there must be no direct visibility of the apparent surface of a red lamp if viewed by an observer moving within Zone 1 as specified in Annex 4.

5.10.2. For the visibility of white light towards the rear, **with the exception of reversing lamps** there must be no direct visibility of the apparent surface of a white lamp if viewed by an observer moving within Zone 2 in a transverse plane situated 25 m behind the vehicle (see Annex 4);"

Insert new paragraphs 6.24. to 6.24.9., to read:

"6.24. EXTERIOR COURTESY LAMP

6.24.1. Presence
Optional on motor vehicles.

6.24.2. Number
No special requirement.

6.24.3. Arrangement
No special requirement.

6.24.4. Position
No special requirement.

6.24.5. Geometric visibility
No special requirement.

6.24.6. Orientation
No special requirement.

6.24.7. Electrical connections
No special requirement.

6.24.8. Tell-tale
No special requirement.

6.24.9. Other requirements
The exterior courtesy lamp shall not be activated unless the vehicle is stationary and the engine is stopped.

The provisions of paragraph 5.10. shall be met in all fixed and transitional positions of use."

B. JUSTIFICATION

Many vehicles are fitted with courtesy lamps to provide illumination when the vehicle is parked to help the driver see the ground surface and surrounding area when entering or leaving the car. However, the equivalent European Directive appears to prohibit the fitment of any lighting device other than those defined in paragraph 2.7. of Regulation No. 48. This proposal therefore amends the Regulation to include a definition for courtesy lamps and clarify that such lamps may be fitted to a vehicle.

While recognising that no specific requirements are needed for the installation of such lamps, it has been noted by the United Kingdom Type Approval authority that some courtesy lamps are fitted to mirrors that may fold up when the vehicle is in the parked condition allowing white light to be shown to the rear. It is therefore proposed to clarify that the requirements of paragraph 5.10. apply to courtesy lamps in all positions in which they may be illuminated. For clarity it is also proposed to delete "... which could give rise to confusion" from paragraph 5.10. as this text could lead to different interpretations among approval authorities, i.e. one may decide that a certain amount of white light to the rear from a particular lamp does not cause confusion and so it is acceptable while another may decide the same lamp is likely to cause confusion.
