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**REVISION OF THE CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION ON
ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS (R.E.2)**

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has been informed by ECMT of an application to include a new sign for service stations delivering sulphur-free fuel. The content of this proposal, which was adopted by the ECMT Group on Road Transport at its November 2003 meeting is reproduced here with some slight changes of form.

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USE OF A SIGN TO INDICATE A SERVICE STATION DELIVERING SULPHUR-FREE FUEL

Introduction

In 1985, the ECMT Council of Ministers adopted a report containing a proposal recommending the use of a specific symbol to indicate service stations delivering lead-free fuel (CM(85)2).

The Council of Ministers at its last session adopted resolution 2003/2 (CEMT/CM(2003)5/FINAL), concerning sulphur-free fuels.

Regulation No. 49 annexed to the 1958 UNECE Geneva Agreement establishes emission limits equivalent to EURO3 standards from January 2003 and equivalent to EURO4 standards from 2005 in all ECMT countries. The amendment to the 1971 European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic, endorsed at the 1997 Vienna Conference on Transport and the Environment, furthermore requires heavy commercial vehicles in international traffic to meet the above emissions standards and carry international technical inspection certificates. These provisions will mean a growing demand for low sulphur and sulphur-free fuels in all ECMT member countries to enable these vehicles to function to design standards and ensure that they pass technical inspections.

Problem

The ECMT Council of Ministers, meeting in Brussels in April 2003, noted the unanimous agreement of the European Union Environment Council of 12 December 2001 on the proposal to modify Directive 98/70/EC concerning the quality of petrol and diesel and in particular to introduce sulphur-free fuels in all member States by 1 January 2005 and ensure that all petrol and diesel sold in the Union is sulphur-free by 1 January 2009.

At the present time, sulphur-free fuel is not available in all service stations. It is therefore essential to indicate to motorists service stations where it can be obtained. In a few years, when this fuel is available in all service stations, this indication will be unnecessary.

Proposal

The Convention on Road Signs and Signals contains a "Filling station" sign (F4). It might be appropriate to modify this sign as was done in 1985 for lead-free petrol. An addition could be made to the sign F4 on the lower part of the same panel or on an additional panel in the form of the inscription "Also sulphur-free" in the national language. In order to facilitate international understanding of signs, however, the use of graphic symbols rather than inscriptions is preferable (see article 8 of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals). It therefore seems desirable to modify the filling station symbol.

The sign proposed by ECMT is composed of the existing filling station symbol in black and in the background, moved diagonally back to the right, the same symbol in orange as indicated below. The meaning of the new symbol can be explained to motorists in such a way as to need relatively little information. Since this does not constitute a modification of the essential characteristics of the “Filling station” symbol, no additional modification of the Convention on Road Signs and Signals would be required (article 8, paragraph 1, of the Convention).


