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(Ninetieth session, 24-28 April 2006,
agenda item 2.4.)

PROPOSAL FOR DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION No. 46

(Devices for indirect vision)

Transmitted by the expert from France

Note: The text reproduced below was transmitted by the expert from France in order to clarify the installation requirements of Class I (interior) mirrors on vehicles of categories M₁ and N₁. In addition, it proposes implementation conditions of optional mirrors on vehicles of categories M₂ and M₃. The modifications to the current text of the Regulation (up to the 02 series of amendments) are marked in **bold** characters.

Note: This document is distributed to the Experts on General Safety Provisions only.

A. PROPOSAL

Paragraph 15.2.1.1.1., the table, the second column "Interior mirror Class I", the cells corresponding to the M₁ and N₁ vehicle categories, amend to read:

"Compulsory

Unless whatever its installation, the driver cannot view the road through when driving or manoeuvring the vehicle"

Paragraph 15.2.2.2., amend to read:

" shall not apply to:

- exterior mirrors on the passenger side **and optional exterior mirrors on the driver side** of vehicles of categories M₂ and M₃;
- Class VI mirrors."

Paragraph 15.2.4.8.1., amend to read:

"15.2.4.8.1. Interior rear-view mirror (Class I)

The field of vision may be reduced by the presence of headrest and devices such as, in particular, sun visors, rear windscreen wipers, heating elements and stop lamp of category **S3**, **provided** that all these devices together do not obscure more than 15 per cent of the prescribed field of vision visors folded back.

The field of vision may also be reduced by components of framework or bodywork such as window columns of rear split doors, rear window frame."

B. JUSTIFICATION

Reference to paragraph 15.2.1.1.1.

This proposal aims to clarify mandatory installation requirements of the Class I (interior mirrors) mirrors on the vehicles of categories M₁ and N₁. The mandatory installation of these mirrors is required because the driver can use such a mirror during the driving or manoeuvring. In order to comply with this requirement, the vehicle has to be equipped with a safety glazing material, installed in the driver's indirect vision, as specified in Regulation No. 43. Therefore, the wording of this proposal is aligned with the respective provisions in Regulation No. 43.

Reference to paragraph 15.2.2.2.

The requirement for exterior mirrors situated on the driver side to be visible through the portion of the windscreen swept by the windscreen wiper makes it very difficult, even impossible, for manufacturers to install optional wide-angle mirrors on vehicles of categories M₂ and M₃. The proposal to modify paragraph 15.2.2.2. aims to allow this installation which improves the driver's indirect vision conditions when driving or manoeuvring.

Reference to paragraph 15.2.4.8.1.

Paragraph 15.2.1.1.1. provides that fields of vision shall be obtained from the minimum number of compulsory mirrors. Vehicles of categories M₁ and N₁ must be equipped with two exterior mirrors, allowing a wider field of vision compared to the former requirements (01 series of amendments) of the Regulation. Concerning the compulsory interior mirror installation requirements (see the reference to paragraph 15.2.1.1.1. above), the design and construction requirements of the vehicles might not be consistent with the dimensions of the field of vision. The proposal to modify paragraph 15.2.4.8.1. confirms the mandatory presence of the interior mirror, allowing to see the rear transparent area of the vehicle even if the field of vision is not fulfilled.
