

United States of America position regarding the development of the Worldwide Light-duty Test Procedure (WLTP)

Just over a year ago, the United States agreed to embark on the Global Technical Regulation (GTR) process for the Worldwide Light-duty Test Procedure (WLTP). After consideration of the technical elements, recognizing the significance of the program, and reviewing the aggressive schedule, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) committed to co-sponsor the GTR and co-chair the DTP subgroup. As you all are aware, EPA has dedicated significant resources over the years, especially since the advent of the 98 Agreement, to develop data driven, technically supportable Global Technical Regulations. We respect the work of this body and the accomplishments we have made together.

In May of this year President Obama made significant new requests of the U.S. EPA. These new requests will require all of EPA's resources to be dedicated to advancing standard setting rules for both light-duty and heavy-duty greenhouse gases and also reviewing criteria pollutants from light-duty. In addition, the time schedule associated with these mandates is very aggressive and concurrent with the schedule of the WLTP GTR.

It is EPA's position that attempting to support the level of data gathering and engineering required for the WLTP cannot be accomplished in the same time frame as the effort required to meet our national commitments. The same experts currently advising on WLTP will be fully engaged in the rulemaking activities over the next year to 18 months. EPA's continued participation in WLTP would have necessarily impeded the current development schedule of the GTR. Therefore, with this change in our national circumstances, we are not able to fulfill our commitments to the WLTP group and must withdrawal our active participation as co-sponsors of the GTR and co-chair of the DTP subgroup.

Over the next few months we will work with our colleagues in the WLTP to ensure a smooth transition of the leadership roles we have played. While we will not be active in the WLTP, this current position will not affect our participation in other GRPE or WP 29 issues.

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