

Proposal for an Addendum to the Authorization (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/AC.3/48) to Develop the Amendment No. 2 to UN Global Technical Regulation No. 16 (Tyres)

Note: This proposal is a follow-up to the decision by WP.29 at its 175th session about reallocation of the tasks related to tyres from former GRRF to GRB with the immediate effect. As a consequence, the Informal Working Group (IWG) TYREGTR became the subgroup of GRB, which was acknowledged and endorsed by the IWG TYREGTR at its 19th meeting and GRB at its 68th session. This proposal is a subject for approval by the Executive Committee for the 1998 Agreement (AC.3).

I. Proposal

A. Background

1. WP.29, at its 175th session in June 2018, adopted, in implementation of ITC decision No. 19, the conversion of GRRF into GRVA and the reallocation of certain tasks such as tyres and coupling devices to other existing GRs as outlined in the first option of informal document WP.29-175-25 (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1139, para. 33). The tasks related to tyres were reallocated from former GRRF to GRB.
2. As a consequence, the IWG TYREGTR became the subgroup of GRB and started to report about its activities to GRB from its 68th session in September 2018.

B. Status of development of the Amendment No. 2 to UN GTR No. 16 by the 68th GRB session (September 2018)

5. The subject of the Amendment No. 2 was preliminary considered at the consequent 15th meeting of the reinstated IWG TYREGTR in January 2017.
6. The case-by-case consideration of the relevant proposed amendments to UN GTR No. 16 text started at the 16th IWG TYREGTR meeting held in Moscow in June 2017. During discussions on the proposed amendments regarding to harmonization of: physical dimensions, the tyre industry identified incompatibilities in some cases regarding the UN Regulations and U.S. FMVSS standards, which have to be addressed in the harmonized GTR text. Moreover, the assessment of FMVSS 139 High Speed test versus UN Regulation No. 54 Load/Speed test made by tyre industry indicated uncertainty in terms of severity of test methods for tyres with 'R' and 'S' speed symbols. Therefore, the IWG TYREGTR decided on extending its the mandate for 2 years (till the end of 2020) in order to give tyre industry the possibility to confirm the initial results on the High Speed harmonised test method. GRRF at its 84th session in September 2017 supported this request, which was further the subject of consent by AC.3 at its 50th session in November 2017.

7. At its next, 17th meeting held in November 2017 in Brussels, the IWG TYREGTR made significant progress towards resolving incompatibilities in the UN Regulations and U.S. FMVSS standards. Industry introduced the High-Speed test program proposal in order to clarify the test method for the tyres with 'R' and 'S' speed symbols.

8. At the following, 18th meeting held in Ottawa in June 2018, the IWG TYREGTR endorsed addition of new harmonized provisions for physical dimensions of LT/C tyres in the new Section 3.20 (old Sections 3.20 & 3.21 to be deleted).

9. At the same meeting, the tyre industry presented to the IWG the technical assesment and proposal for a harmonised high speed test, which was introduced in the new Section 3.16 (old Sections 3.16 & 3.19 to be deleted). [The proposed text was endorsed by the IWG TYREGTR at its 19th meeting held in Geneva in September 2018 prior to the 68th GRB session].

10. At the same meeting, the IWG TYREGTR agreed with the industry opinion that due to the high complexity in harmonizing the endurance test for the LT/C tyres, the proposal would be to keep the tests non-harmonized for the time being.

11. The IWG TYREGTR mandated the expert from the Russian Federation to introduce the concept for global tyre marking at the 86th GRRF session in February 2018. At that GRRF session the Chair of the IWG TYREGTR introduced a memorandum on a "global marking for tyres". He invited the Contracting Parties to the 1998 Agreement to review this memorandum and assess, whether the approach for tyre global marking in UN GTR No. 16 could be supported and whether it would be feasible to recognize a global tyre marking as an alternative to the existing national/regional tyre marking.

12. In parallel, the IWG TYREGTR at its 16th meeting started identifying divergences between the current version of UN GTR No. 16 and China tyre regulations with the significant help of the Chinese experts. IWG TYREGTR agreed that the relevant text containing alternative level of requirements as proposed by China may be included in UN GTR No. 16 as per Article 4.2 of the 1998 Agreement. GRRF at its 84th session welcomed both the engagement of China in the work on UN GTR No. 16 and the remarkable amount of work done to consider the Chinese national regulations.

13. The 19th meeting the IWG TYREGTR acknowledged the completion of research on the subject of Amendment No. 2 to UN GTR No. 16 and addressed the preparation of the final text of the draft Amendment No. 2, the Statement on Technical Rationale and Justification and the Technical Report. This activity was continued at the 20th IWG TYREGTR meeting.

C. Organization of process and timeline

14. From September 2018 the IWG TYREGTR shall report about its activities to GRB. The IWG meetings primarily shall be organized in conjunction with the GRB regular sessions.

15. The proposed action plan:

(a) January 2019: Submitting to the GRB the consolidated informal documents (the draft Amendment No. 2 to UN GTR No. 16, the Statement on Technical Rationale and Justification and the Technical Report). Consideration of remaining issues (if any) at the 69th GRB session;

(b) September 2019: Submitting to the GRB for endorsement the working documents (the draft Amendment No. 2 to UN GTR No. 16, the Statement on Technical Rationale and Justification and the Technical Report);

(c) March 2020: Adoption of the proposal by AC.3, if no remaining issues had existed;

(d) November 2020: Adoption of the proposal by AC.3, if all remaining issues had been solved.

12. The progress of works will be reported to AC.3 at its sessions in 2019 and 2020.

II. Request to AC.3

On behalf of the IWG TYREGTR the Russian Federation acting as the Technical Sponsor of the development of Amendment No. 2 to UN GTR No. 16 requests AC.3 to adopt the Addendum to the Authorization (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/AC.3/48) as above.
