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Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals

Eighteenth session

Geneva, 7 and 8 February 2019

Report of the Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals on its eighteenth session

I. Attendance

1. The Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals (GE.2) held its eighteenth session in Geneva on 7 and 8 February 2019, chaired by Mr. K. Hofman (Belgium). Representatives of the following ECE member States participated: Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Russian Federation, Sweden and Switzerland.
2. The representatives of a non-ECE member State also participated: Nigeria. The following private companies were represented: A-Mazing Designs, Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons Company and Forschungsgesellschaft Strasse-Schiene-Verkehr (FSV).

II. Adoption of the agenda

3. The Group of Experts adopted the session's agenda (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/35).

III. Programme of Work: Taking Stock of National Legislation

A. Review of recommendations on A through H signs

4. At the last session, Amazing Designs raised a number of issues which have yet to be resolved. The Chair requested that a document reflecting the issues and the signs concerned be sent to the Chair and secretariat for distribution and feedback from the Group of Experts via email ahead of this session. In relation to oral comments made by Amazing Designs, the Group made the following clarifications and recommendations in relation to ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/2018/4/Rev.1:

- (a) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of the bend signs (e.g. sign A, 1 a);
- (b) The title of sign 7, b should be changed to “SPEED HUMP” and the text “hump bridge or ridge” should be changed to “speed hump”;
- (c) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s for signs A, 7 a (uneven road) and A, 7 c (dip);
- (d) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of sign B, 2 (stop);
- (e) Where a contracting party chooses to use yellow or white as the ground colour for one category signs (i.e. danger warning signs), it should consistently do so for the entire category of permanent signs;
- (f) Sign A, 28 a is to be used at both guarded and unguarded level crossings. In addition, no changes to Article 35 of the Convention are necessary in this regard;
- (g) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of sign B, 1 (give way);
- (h) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of C, 16 sign (prohibition of passing without stopping);
- (i) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of the D, 3 sign (small roundabout);
- (j) The text of signs A, 2 (dangerous descent) and A, 3 (steep ascent) should be amended so that the symbol of either a car or a percentage of gradient or both, may be used. An arrow in the ground colour of the sign may be embedded into the black triangular part of the symbol when the percentage symbol is used; and that Section A, subsection I, paragraph 3 (the reference to article 5) be deleted;
- (k) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of sign A, 4 a to b (carriageway narrows);
- (l) The title of sign A, 5 a should be changed to “OPENING BRIDGE” and the text “swing bridge” should be changed to “opening bridge”;
- (m) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of sign A, 8 (shoulders);
- (n) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of sign A, 9 (slippery road);
- (o) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of sign A, 10 a and A, 10 b (loose gravel);
- (p) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of sign A, 11 a and A, 11 b (falling rocks);
- (q) No changes are required to the colour of the symbol/s of signs A, 12 (pedestrian), A, 13 (children) and A, 14 (cyclist);
- (r) No addition is required to the symbol/s of sign A, 15 a (domestic animals) and A, 15 b (wild animals);
- (s) Sign A, 23 (two-way traffic) will be discussed as part of the non-Convention signs;
- (t) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of signs A, 29 a to c (approaches to level crossings or opening bridges);
- (u) The models in the Convention for signs A, 24 and A, 27 should be used;
- (v) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of sign A, 21 (stop ahead);

- (w) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of sign B, 4 (priority road ends);
- (x) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of signs B, 5 and B, 6;
- (y) No changes are required in relation to the border of sign C, 2 (closed to all vehicles in both directions);
- (z) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of sign C, 3a, C, 4 a, and C, 4 b;
- (aa) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of sign C, 10;
- (bb) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of sign C, 17 b;
- (cc) No changes are required to the text of sign D, 8;
- (dd) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of signs D, 11 a and D, 11, b;
- (ee) No changes are required concerning the colour of temporary signs;
- (ff) No changes are required to the text or symbol/s of sign G, 14;
- (gg) The symbol/s of sign G, 22 should be amended in conformity with the decision of the Group per its seventeenth session;
- (hh) The use of the colour red on Section H additional panels is permitted only where it is expressly specified in the Convention;
- (ii) There should be no change to the title of Section H signs “Additional Panels”.

5. Lithuania tabled Informal document No. 1 (February 2019) which contained a proposal to amend article 13, paragraph 3 of the convention. The Group of Experts, after extensive discussion, decided that no changes were necessary for the convention, but suggested that if desired, domestic legislation can be developed to clarify that prohibitory or restrictive signs may be applicable to the area of intersections. The Group considers such domestic legislation not to be in contradiction with the convention.

6. The Group of Experts discussed comments to ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/2018/4/Rev.1 suggesting amendments to Annexes 1 and 3 of the convention, starting at the H, 5 additional panel. The Group made the following recommendations:

- (a) In the text for H, 5, “category” should be replaced with “categories”;
- (b) In the text for H, 6, “category” should be replaced with “categories”, and “are to be regarded as not applying to” with “are not applicable”; and
- (c) In the text for H, 8, “the roads on which signs B1 (B-01.0) or B, 2 (B-02.0) are set up” should be replaced with “roads on which vehicles/drivers do not have the priority”.

7. In response to interventions from the secretariat on:

- (a) Sign F, 8, the Group recommended using the symbols of a tree, bench and person. For the person, the Group recommended the use of the ISO symbol with a person sitting on a bench and requested that FSV send the symbol to the secretariat;
- (b) Sign G, 7, the Group clarified that the G, 7 sign to be deleted was the sign in the current version of the Convention numbered “G, 7”;
- (c) The contrast rims of signs, the Group recommended to delete the word “outer” in the newly introduced article 7 paragraph 4bis (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/2018/5) and agreed that the images of all signs in the Convention shall have a contrast rim;

(d) Whether the edges of the A, a danger warning sign should be round or sharp, the Group agreed to follow the example provided in the Convention;

(e) Sign G, 16, the Group reconsidered its recommendation at the seventeenth session to delete this advisory sign and decided that it shall be kept;

(f) Signs H, 3 a, H, 3 b, H, 3 c, H, 4 a, H, 4 b and H, 4 c, the Group reconsidered its recommendation at the seventeenth session to include the addition of the following text: "It may be used in combination with the E, 14 sign" and decided to delete this text. Lithuania was invited to draft a proposal on this issue for the next session;

(g) Sign E, 4, the Group reconsidered its recommendation at the seventeenth session to include a second example reflecting the arrowheads at 90° angle and decided not to include a second example;

(h) Sign G, 26 a, the Group decided to renumber this to G, 26 in light of the deletion of proposed sign G, 26 b, at the seventeenth session;

(i) Sign G, 12 a, the Group decided to amend the title to also include the end of a traffic lane; and

(j) Sign G, 18, the Group decided to delete the words "FOR HEAVY VEHICLES" in the title, and also to replace the words "for goods vehicles" with "the type of road user indicated by the symbol".

8. Germany gave a presentation on some best practices on the design of road signs and signals including contrast rims, arrowheads and other details, and offered to propose recommended changes to improve the designs of the signs in ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/2018/4/Rev.1. The Group welcomed this initiative and the willingness of France to assist. Germany will liaise with the secretariat accordingly.

9. Due to time constraints, the Group of Experts was unable to examine and finalise its draft final report on the review of the convention's signs (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/2018/5). The Chair, together with the secretariat, will update the final report to reflect the decisions undertaken in all of the sessions of the Group of Experts, and circulate the updated report to the Group on or before end of March, with the aim of finalising and adopting the report at the next session of the Group. The Group will be requested to send their comments in tracked changes to the updated report to the secretariat by 31 May.

B. Evaluation of the non-convention signs and related observations

10. Due to time constraints at the last session, the Group was unable to resume its discussions started at the sixth session on the evaluation of the non-convention signs and related observations presented by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/WP.1/GE.2/2016/1). Accordingly, the Chair requested that the Group of Experts review the documents and identify particular signs to be added to the convention and send this information to the secretariat by 15 January 2019. Based on the feedback from the Group, the secretariat compiled Informal document No. 2 based on the signs/priorities provided by the Group. Due to time constraints, the Group was not able to discuss Informal document No. 2.

11. Also due to time constraints at the last session, FSV, following the request at the fifteenth session, was unable to present its informal document (Informal document No. 2, September 2018) on symbols used on additional panels for hearing and visually impaired, and was invited to do so at this session. Due to time constraints, the Group was not able to discuss this matter.

IV. e-CORSS

12. The secretariat informed the Group of Experts on the latest developments related to e-CoRSS.

V. Other Business

13. The Group was of the view that more time was essential to complete the work for which it was mandated. The Group requested the Chair to seek an extension of its mandate until the end of this 2019.

14. The Group of Experts did not discuss other matters of interest.

VI. Date and Place of Final Meeting

15. The final meeting has been scheduled for 20 to 21 June 2019 in Geneva.

VII. Adoption of the Report

16. The Group of Experts adopted the report of its eighteenth session.
