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1958 Agreement:
development of an electronic database for the exchange
of type approval documentation (DETA)

Proposal for specifications and application guidelines for the Unique Identifier (UI) module

Submitted by the experts from the Informal Working Group on Database of the Exchange of Type Approval documentation*

The text reproduced below was presented by the Informal Working Group on Database of the Exchange of Type Approval documentation (DETA) to WP.29 at its 178th session (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1147, para. 85). It is based on WP29-178-24 and WP.29-178-28. It is submitted to the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) for consideration at its November 2019 session.

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* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2018–2019 (ECE/TRANS/274, para. 123 and ECE/TRANS/2018/21/Add.1, Cluster 3.1), the World Forum will develop, harmonize and update UN regulations to enhance the performance of vehicles. The present document is submitted in conformity with that mandate.

I. Unique Identifier module

A. Specification of the Unique Identifier module

1.	A Unique Identifier (UI) entity will be introduced into the Database for the exchange of type approval documentation (DETA).

2.	Each UI will be represented by a number that is unique in the system.

3.	This numbering shall start at 1 and there will be no leading zeroes.

4.	A UI can only be created in connection with one or more type approvals:

- For each new type approval (document) created in DETA, a UI will be created automatically

- A UI can be created for a single type approval that does not yet have a connected UI

- A UI can be created for a combination of type approvals in DETA

5.	The Unique Identifier will have the following attributes:

- Unique Identifier number;

- Description;

- Creating approval authority;

- Creation Date;

- Others.

6.	As a UI can refer to a single type approval or to a combination of approvals and an approval can be related to several UIs, there will be an n:m relation between UIs and type approvals (documents).

B. Specification of the reporting function

7.	DETA shall be able to provide reports:

- List of UI's generated by an authority;

- List of UI's generated for a manufacturer;

- List of UI's for multiple approvals with the approval-Numbers included;

- Download of UID-MA for a manufacturer.

C. Clarifications

8.	A UI will be generated automatically for each new type approval uploaded to DETA by a Contracting Party.

9.	A combined UI is created on application of a Contracting Party having issued one of the type approvals for a product.

10.	Approvals from different approval authorities can be combined into one UI

11.	One approval can be assigned to different UIs. The software will not check whether a UI has already been created by another approval authority. ("For each separate product a manufacturer shall apply for a UI at only one approval authority.")

12.	Different products may have the same UI only if the differences of the products are not certification relevant with respect to the approvals assigned to this UI. This is a matter of correct use of the system by the authorities uploading type approvals. The DETA system cannot check this condition.

13.   An extension of an existing approval due to a new series of amendments of the regulation will not automatically require a new UI if the product can already fulfil the extended legal requirements without modification. (In such a case the extended approval shares the UI of the existing regulation.)

D.   Use cases

14.   Create Unique Identifier for a new type approval (automatically): When a new type approval is created in DETA by an approval authority, a UI is created automatically and is assigned to the type approval document

15.   Create an extension of an existing type approval (manually): Using a new functionality "Create extension", an extension of an existing type approval can be created. This is the same as copying a type approval but with an additional check box where the user must decide whether to create a new UI for the extension or to keep the UIs of the original type approval. In case the type approval has no UI always a new UI is created.

16.   Create Unique Identifier for an existing type approval where no UI exists yet (manually): Using a new functionality "Create UI", a new UI can be created for a single selected type approval if no UI is assigned to the type approval yet. (This will only be the case for type approval documents created in DETA before this extension has been installed.)

17.   Create Unique Identifier for a combination of type approvals (manually): Using a new functionality "Create UI", a new UI can be created for a selected combination of type approvals if no UI is assigned to this combination of type approvals yet.

18.   Show UIs for type approvals – as attributes in the table of documents: The UIs for type approvals are shown in the table of documents in DETA like other attributes of a type approval document.

19.   Search type approvals for a given UI – integrated in the DETA tab: In addition to the other searchable attributes, a search field for UIs will be added to the DETA tab user interface.

E.   Use cases

20.   As the UIs that are assigned to a type approval document are shown in the document table like other attributes, no special access permissions are necessary. Instead, the access permissions of the documents apply:

- CPs (TAAs) – read access for all;
- Manufacturers – Only Approval holders.

21.   If additional access permissions are granted on a document, these will apply on the visibility of the UIs too.

F.   Decisions (see working paper DETA-35-03)

22.   When a UI number needs to be 'reserved' by the approval authority (prior to type approval e.g. in case when a manufacturer needs to prepare the marking in the moulding) all mandatory attributes need to be entered. As this is prior to issuing the type approval the approval state and approval date are not fixed. It was decided that for this reason DETA will include the new value "reserved" for the attribute 'Approval State'. The value entered in the attribute 'Approval Date' should be a future date. This will be explained in the DETA manual. (Document DETA-32-04e is the latest overview of the attributes in DETA).

23.   A new UI is automatically generated upon uploading a new type approval. For extensions to existing approvals a new UI is required in case of a new series of amendments of a regulation and a modification of the product to make the product comply with that new series (item 6 versus item 5 of the Annex of doc. DETA-34-10-rev1). As this cannot be

distinguished by DETA, the approval authority shall indicate that a new UI needs to be generated.

24.   The manufacturer shall also inform the authority during the application process. No automatic UI-Generation for approval-extensions is foreseen.

25.   DETA will also not restraint the visibility of UI numbers allocated to approvals for regulations where the approval marking may not be replaced by a UI (e.g. R0, R22, R44).

26.   Retrieving from DETA all the UI's allocated to a single type approval. This may be necessary for tracing products, e.g. in case of market surveillance or recall issues. A new 'search field' will be added.

27.   Where a UI is 'reserved' and finally not used, it was decided not to delete this information in DETA. This is for verification purpose for the authorities in case a manufacturer used the reserved UI where no type approval was issued.

G.   Additional archive attributes

28.   Archive attributes are defined as listed in DETA-27-04e - DETA attributes.xlsx

29.   The system will be extended to allow the use of entities other than User as archive attributes. This is necessary for the UI entity.

H.   Next steps

30.   The enhancements for the next steps of DETA will include:

- Upload and assign VINs to the corresponding approval;
- Declaration of Conformance (DoC);
- Import Documents/Approvals and IWVTA;
- Migration of existing approvals in DETA and generating an UI for them.

I.   Exclusion

31.   The software will not check whether a UI has been granted already by another approval authority. ("For each separate product a manufacturer shall apply for a UI at only one approval authority.")

32.   Guidelines and work instructions are not part of the software and have to be defined and to be provided by the UNECE or other participants. In order to be flexible the guidelines are not implemented in the software; for example for some regulations it is not allowed to use the UI as a marking on the product instead of the approvals.

II.   Guideline for application of the Unique Identifier

A.   Introduction

1.   This guidance document is intended to provide guidance to the approval authorities of Contracting Parties to the 1958 Agreement, their designated technical services and manufacturers on the use of the Unique Identifier (UI) in accordance with Schedule 5 of the 1958 Agreement Revision 3[1].

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[1] When drafting a new UN Regulation or an amendment of a UN Regulation, the subsidiary bodies of WP.29 may deviate from these guidelines where they consider it necessary and justified.

2.   This guidance document does not alter the provisions of the 1958 Agreement and the existing UN Regulations. If there is any inconsistency between these guidelines and the text of the 1958 Agreement, the latter shall prevail.

3.   For the purpose of these guidelines, "secure internet database" refers to DETA (Database for the Exchange of Type Approval documentation)

B.   Main principles of the Unique Identifier

4.   The Unique Identifier (hereafter called UI) is introduced by the 1958 Agreement Revision 3. If used, the UI serves as:

(a)   A number assigned to a product upon storing the type approval(s) of that product on the secure internet database in accordance with Schedule 5 of the 1958 Agreement Revision 3. The UI is generated by the database automatically;

(b)   An approval marking consisting of the UI number preceded by the symbol ⎡UI⎤ and replacing the approval marking(s) required by the UN Regulation(s) in case those UN Regulation(s) allow for it. Any leading zeros in the UI number may be omitted in the marking.

5.   For the purpose of Unique Identifier, a product is a physical object, or a group of physical objects consisting of one or more approved systems, components, equipment or parts and is identified by a single type approval number or by a unique combination of type approval numbers, as is typically for lamp units. There can only be one UI assigned to a product and one UI applies to one product only. Nonetheless, different products may incorporate the same components with the same type approval numbers.

To each type approval number that is uploaded to the secure internet database a UI is assigned.

On request of the manufacturer to the type approval authority a UI can be assigned to a combination of approval numbers provided that all of them have been assigned to that manufacturer.

Example of a lamp unit incorporating a stop lamp, direction-indicator lamp and rear retro-reflector:
UI 1: lamp unit with E4-7R-1234, E4-6R-1234
UI 2: lamp unit with E4-7R-1234, E4-6R-1234, E4-3R-1234
UI 3: lamp unit with E4-7R-1234, E4-6R-5678, E4-3R-1234

In this case, UI's are assigned to all the different products. The UI for the product may be used as marking. By feeding the UI number into the database, all information to all of the type approval(s) as part of the product can be found.

6. The position of the UI marking on a product shall be as prescribed for the UN marking. UN markings on a product may only be combined to a single UI marking where it concerns related subjects, such as lighting or tyres.

C. General guidelines on the use of the Unique Identifier

7. For the efficient operation of the approval process, approval authorities are appealed to utilize the secure internet database established by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, for communicating to Contracting Parties notice of approval, of extension, of refusal, of withdrawal or where production is definitely discontinued of a type of wheeled vehicles, equipment or parts, including all its documentation, according to Schedule 5 of the 1958 Agreement Revision 3.

8. The approval authority where a manufacturer applies for type approval for his product is responsible for issuing the UI. The UI is generated by the database automatically in case the approval authority:

(a) On request of the manufacturer, 'reserves' the UI by entering a minimum set of attributes and the existing or pre-assigned type approval number(s) for that product;

(b) Uploads a new type approval for which a new UI is requested into the database with the corresponding attributes;

(c) On request of the manufacturer, assigns a new UI to a product consisting of multiple approved components by selecting type approval numbers already existing in the database.

9. For each separate product a manufacturer shall apply for a UI at only one approval authority. However, different functionalities of the product may be covered by type approvals issued by approval authorities of different Contracting Parties. The UI shall be assigned by one of those approval authorities.

10. The User Manual of the secure internet database specifies further details on the use of the database.

11. Further guidelines on the use of the UI in case of modifications of approved products or of UN Regulations are described in Annex 1.

12. Utilizing the secure internet database and using the UI as marking is on a voluntary basis, unless a UN Regulation stipulates otherwise. A UN Regulation may prohibit the use of the UI as marking for the items covered by that UN Regulation. A UN Regulation may also specify that additional symbols and information to be marked on the product can be regarded as part of the approval marking and may be replaced by the UI marking accordingly.

Annex

General guidelines on the use of the UI in case of modifications of approved products or of UN Regulations.

	Product status	Regulation update	Impact on approval	Impact on conventional UN type approval marking	Impact on UI marking (when database is available)
1	New product	-	New approval	Approval No(s) issued	Approval No(s) issued and linked to a UI
				UN type approval marking(s) on the new product	UI marking on the new product
2	Modification of the product with no impact on approval	-	No impact	No impact	No impact
3	Modification of the product with impact on approval but not exceeding its type definition	-	Extension required	No impact	No impact
4	Modification of the product which exceeds its type definition	-	New approval	New approval No(s) issued	New approval No(s) issued and linked to a new UI
				New UN type approval marking(s) on the modified product	New UI marking on the modified product
5	No modification of the product. All variants of the product included in the original approval already comply with the new series of amendments of the UN Regulation	Update of UN Regulation, new series of amendments	Extension of approval with indication of the new series of amendments	New UN type approval marking(s) on the un-modified product to indicate the new series of amendments	No impact
6	Modification of the product and all or some of its variants to comply with the new series of amendments to the UN Regulation but not exceeding its type definition	Update of UN regulation, new series of amendments	Extension of approval with indication of the new series of amendments	New UN type approval marking(s) on the modified product	New UI marking