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Other business:

Safe transport of children in buses and coaches

First progress report and terms of references of the informal working group on safer transport of children on buses and coaches

Submitted by the experts from the Working Party on Passive Safety*

The text reproduced below was adopted by the Working Party on Passive Safety (GRSP) at its sixty-sixth session (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSP/66). It is based on ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRSP/2019/22. It is submitted to the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) for consideration at its March 2020 session.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2020 as outlined in proposed programme budget for 2020 (A/74/6 (part V sect. 20) para 20.37), the World Forum will develop, harmonize and update UN Regulations in order to enhance the performance of vehicles. The present document is submitted in conformity with that mandate.



First progress report and terms of reference of the informal working group on safer transport of children on buses and coaches

I. Introduction

1. The Working Party on Passive Safety (GRSP) agreed at its sixty-fifth session to set up an IWG on safer transport of children when travelling in buses and coaches, and agreed to seek consent from WP.29 to mandate a new IWG to solve the securing of children when travelling in buses and coaches.

II. Objective of the Informal Working Group

2. The objective of the group is to develop a new UN Regulation to ensure safer transport of children when travelling in buses and coaches.

III. Background

3. GRSP acknowledged the importance of this issue. However, GRSP expressed the wish that IWG on child restraints addresses this subject once its work on Enhanced Child Restraint Systems (UN Regulation No. 129) has been completed.

4. After the finalization of the UN Regulation No. 129, some contracting parties showed their concern about this issue.

5. During the sixty-fifth session of GRSP, a request for the creation of a new IWG to address this issue was submitted to GRSP.

6. GRSP agreed to seek consent from WP.29 to establish the new IWG. WP.29 consented to establishing the new IWG on safer transport of children in buses and coaches.

7. The first meeting was held on 9 July 2019 in Madrid where the Terms of Reference (ToR) shown in Annex 1 were established.

Annex

Terms of Reference

I. Introduction

1. GRSP agreed to set up an IWG on safer transport of children in buses and coaches.
2. GRSP agreed to seek the consent of WP.29 to mandate a new IWG to solve the securing the children when travelling in buses and coaches.

II. Objectives of the informal working group

3. The main IWG objective IWG is to:
 - (a) Draft a new UN Regulation to improve the safety of the children when travelling in buses and coaches;
 - (b) Ensure the good retention of the children in seats when travelling in buses and coaches, ensure the same level of protection as adults and avoid ejection of the children from their seats.
4. The new UN Regulation will be focused on children of a stature between 40 and 150 cm, taking into account different characteristics of M₂ and M₃ categories.

III. Work plan and time schedule

<i>May 2019</i>	<i>GRSP agreed to set up an IWG on Child Restraint Systems for Buses and Coaches.</i>
June 2019	WP.29 agreed to create the new IWG on CRS in buses and coaches
July 2019	First meeting of IWG to define the Terms of Reference to be submitted in the sixty-sixth session of the GRSP as a formal document. (Madrid)
October 2019	Second meeting of IWG
December 2019	Progress Report to GRSP
January 2020	Third meeting of IWG
April 2020	Forth meeting of IWG
May 2020	Progress Report to GRSP
July 2020	Fifth meeting of IWG
October 2020	Sixth meeting of IWG
December 2020	Progress Report to GRSP
January 2021	Seventh meeting of IWG
April 2021	Eighth meeting of IWG
May 2021	Progress Report to GRSP
July 2021	Ninth meeting of IWG

May 2019	<i>GRSP agreed to set up an IWG on Child Restraint Systems for Buses and Coaches.</i>
October 2021	Tenth meeting of IWG
December 2021	Progress Report to GRSP
January 2022	Eleventh meeting of IWG
April 2022	Twelfth meeting of IWG
May 2022	Informal document of the new UN Regulation.
July 2022	Thirteenth meeting of IWG
October 2022	Fourteenth meeting of IWG
December 2022	Adoption of UN Regulation No. XXX
March 2023	Submission of the official proposal to the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) and the Executive Committee for the 1958 Agreement (AC.1) for consideration and vote.

* Additional meetings (including virtual meetings) could be held according to progress in the discussions and the decision of the informal working group.

IV. Rules of procedure

5. IWG is a subgroup of the Working Party on Passive Safety (GRSP) and is open to all participants of GRSP and the Working Party on General Safety Provisions (GRSG) including contracting parties and non-governmental organizations to the 1958 and 1998 Agreements.
6. IWG will report to GRSP, GRSG and WP.29.
7. IWG will be led by Spain and supported by European Association of Automotive Suppliers (CLEPA) for the role of secretary.
8. The official language of IWG will be English.
9. All documents must be submitted to the Secretary of the group in a suitable electronic format at least ten (10) working days before the meeting. The documents will be posted on the UN website at least five (5) working days in advance of the meetings.
10. The Secretary of IWG will distribute a draft meeting minutes to all members within (15) working days after the meeting with the view to be formally adopted at the next meeting.
11. Decisions and proposals of the group shall be reached by consensus. When consensus cannot be reached, the Chairs of the group may present the different points of view and seek guidance from GRSP and GRSG, as appropriate.
12. Meetings shall be held in agreement with the majority of the participants based on the joint proposal by the Chairs of the IWG. Meetings may be in person or virtual using web-based technology.
13. A provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the IWG leaders. The first item of the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda. The second item shall be the minutes of the previous session followed by technical discussions and miscellaneous items.