

**The Partial Amendment to the Safety Regulations for Road Vehicles,
the Type Designation Regulations for Devices, the Announcement that Prescribes
Details of Safety Regulations for Road Vehicles, etc.**

1. Background

In order to promote the harmonization of vehicle regulations and the mutual recognition of automotive parts and equipments, without degrading the levels of the national safety and environmental regulations for wheeled vehicles, the Government of Japan acceded to the Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts which can be Fitted and/or be Used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals granted on the basis of these Prescriptions, done at Geneva on 20 March 1958 (hereinafter, referred to as "the 1958 Agreement), in 1998, and has been progressively applying UNECE Regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement so far.

At the one-hundred-fourth session of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations held in March 2008, the Administrative Committee of the 1958 Agreement (herein after, referred to as "AC.1") agreed to a number of amendments to the UNECE Regulations including the Regulation No. 6 concerning direction indicators, No. 7 concerning front and rear position (side) lamps, stop-lamps and end-outline marker lamps, No. 70 concerning rear marking plates for heavy and long vehicles, etc., which would enter into force on 15 October 2008.

Upon this agreement and other circumstances, seeking further improvement of safety of vehicles and further harmonization of vehicle regulations, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan will make the necessary amendments to the national regulations as outlined below.

2. Summary of amendments

A. NEW APPLICATION OF UNECE REGULATION

2.1 Safety-belts, etc.

2.1.1 Amendments

The UNECE Regulation No.16-05 will apply to Japan through the amendment to the Type Designation Regulations for Devices so that safety-belts meeting the requirements in the Regulation will be able to be type-designated in Japan and accepted as certified in the mutual recognition.

2.1.2 Application date

The amendment will enter into force on 15 October 2008, following the notification to United Nations in due time.

B. ALIGNMENT TO AMENDMENTS TO UNECE REGULATIONS

2.2 Lamps

2.2.1 Scope

The amendments provided below will apply to direction indicators^{*1}, front and rear position (side) lamps, stop-lamps, end-outline marker lamps, reversing lights, rear fog lamps, parking lamps, side-marker lamps, cornering lamps and adaptive front-lighting systems (AFS), for any motor vehicle.

2.2.2 Amendments

To be in line with the amendments to the UNECE Regulation Nos.6, 7, 23, 38, 77, 91, 119 and 123 adopted at the 38th session of AC.1, the corresponding national regulations will be amended, the outline of which is provided below:

- if there are more than one non identical light source modules used in the same housing for a device, it will have to be checked that light source modules cannot be interchanged and symbols or characters to distinguish those modules will have to be added by manufacturers following the approval marking^{*2};
- the design of the light source module(s) will have to be such that each light source module can only be removed with the use of tool(s)^{*2}; and
- in testing photometric characteristics, measuring chromaticity of the light emitted from a device will be required^{*1}.

2.2.3 Lead time

The amendments will apply to motor vehicles manufactured on or after 15 October 2009.

*1/ Except motor cycles with or without sidecars, etc.

*2/ Not required for AFS.

2.3 Installation of lighting and light-signaling devices

2.3.1 Scope

The amendments provided below will apply to installation devices for lighting and light-signaling devices for motor vehicles except motor cycles with or without sidecars, etc.

2.3.2 Amendments

To be in line with the amendments to the UNECE Regulation No.48 adopted at the 38th session of AC.1, the corresponding national regulations will be amended, the outline of which is provided below:

- the definition of "overall length" will be added as a base dimension for measuring installation position of lighting devices, etc.; and
- the chromaticity coordinates of the lights, which are currently defined for each lighting device respectively, will be defined uniformly and the chromaticity areas will be added as definitions of white, yellow, red and amber.

2.3.3 Lead time

The amendments will apply to motor vehicles manufactured on or after 15 October 2009.

2.4 Rear marking plates and retro-reflective markings

2.4.1 Scope

The amendments provided below will apply to rear marking plates and retro-reflective markings for motor vehicles used exclusively for carriage of passengers with ten seats or more and motor vehicles used for the carriage of goods and drawn vehicles with GVW of more than 0.75 tons.

2.4.2 Amendments

To be in line with the amendments to the UNECE Regulation Nos. 70 and 104 adopted at the 38th session of AC.1, the corresponding national regulations will be amended, the outline of which is provided below:

- requirements for high pressure washing will be added to performance requirements in resistance to cleaning.

2.4.3 Lead time

The amendments will apply to motor vehicles manufactured on or after 15 October 2009.

C. OTHER AMENDMENTS

2.5 Handling of motor vehicles with two wheels

2.5.1 Amendments

The existing requirements for small-sized motor cycles, mini-seized motor cycles or motor-driven cycles with two wheels will apply to motor vehicles that meet the following requirements:

- motor vehicles with three wheels;
- motor vehicles with wheels placed symmetrically in relation to the longitudinal centre plane of the motor vehicle;
- motor vehicles with less than 460mm distance between the centers of ground-contact sections of two wheels on axles in the same straight line; and
- motor vehicles that have construction in which the vehicles can turn round by leaning a part or whole of its wheels and body.

2.5.2 Application date

The amendments will apply on the promulgation date of the amendments.

2.6 Handling of measurement of width of motor vehicles

2.6.1 Amendments

The method of measurement of a motor vehicle will be amended to read that a width of a motor vehicle whose direction indicators meet designated requirements is measured under the condition where the direction indicators are removed.

2.6.2 Application date

The amendments will apply to motor vehicles manufactured on or after 1 April 2010.

3. Schedule

The amendments are scheduled to be promulgated at the beginning of October 2008 and to enter into force 15 October 2008^{*3}.

*3/ Items 2.5 and 2.6 will enter into force on the promulgation date.