

Report of the GRRF informal group on Automated Connections between Vehicles (ACV)

At GRRF meeting 73 the group presented a proposal for amendments to R13 through informal document 73-15. The proposal was received in a positive way with some remaining issues mainly from one CP and OICA. The group was asked to elaborate further on the necessity of a reference to a standard and the matter of incompatibility between vehicles if such standard is not used. The group was suggested to use a compatibility matrix to get a good overview over the issue. Some matrices were produced and those formed the base for further work within the group. From these matrices the group extracted the actions and what amendments to the proposal that was necessary in order to reduce the incompatibility and the risk of mismatch. A simplified matrix is presented in the justifications. The working document ECE/TRANS/WP29/GRRF/2013/2 is the result of this work.

After publication of the working document on the UNECE website and some industry meetings the group received additional comments mainly considering a reference to a standard and the compatibility. The group decided to have an additional meeting dedicated to those comments and what amendments to the proposal that could be done. The reference to a standard was a difficult question but the group managed to agree up on a compromised proposal from OICA with a reference to a standard for tractor and semitrailer but truck and full trailer are handled through the proposal with some amendments. The group chose to include relevant part of the standard in the proposal instead of a direct reference. There are mainly two reasons for that, the first reason is that references to standards have been debated for some time within WP.29 and other groups, the second reason is that the standard is not yet published.

To reduce the risk of mismatch, the result of compatibility uncertainty, a categorisation of automated couplings is inserted to facilitate the identification of the coupling as being a coupling with a standardised interface or not. Difference is also made between tractor/semitrailer and truck/full trailer.

The group goes ahead with the working document ECE/TRANS/WP.29/GRRF/2013/2 as valid but revised by the corresponding informal documents.
