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**Economic Commission for Europe**

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**Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety**

**Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals**

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**Additional Panels: H section signs**

**Note by the Secretariat**

At the 11<sup>th</sup> session, the Group of Experts on Road Signs and Signals requested the secretariat to review and propose amendments to the sign H, 3 b and other H section signs as necessary. The following considerations focus on H, 3 and H, 4 signs. However, the secretariat is prepared to provide a more comprehensive review of H signs, including amendment proposals, taking into account the discussion at this session.

## Additional Panels

1. These panels shall have either a white or yellow ground and a black, dark blue or red rim, in which case the distance or length or symbol shall be inscribed in black or dark blue; or a black or dark blue ground and a white, yellow or red rim, in which case the distance or length or symbol shall be inscribed in white or yellow.

### Comments by the secretariat:

**Para 1 lists “distance, length or symbol” as the only elements to be inscribed”. Clearly, the Convention (see, for example, point 4 below) allows for inscriptions. There is need to revise para 1 to explicitly allow inscriptions on H panels (see also comments to 2(a) below).**

**While para 1 offers a great number of possibilities, some CPs violate the Convention by using non-allowed colour combinations.**

*See footnote*

27. Ad Annex 1, section H, to the Convention Additional paragraph to be inserted immediately after paragraph 1

This paragraph shall be read as follows:

“The ground of additional panels should be preferably the same as the ground of the particular groups of signs with which they are used.”

### Comments by the secretariat:

**Point 27 of the European Agreement appears to violate Article 8, para 1, first sentence (about the system of signs based on the use of shapes and colours characteristic of each class). H signs are a class of signs and thus CPs are obliged to use them in the uniform and consistent colour combination. Point 27 should be deleted. Only one ground, rim and symbol/inscription combination should be selected and used.**

2. (a) Additional panels H, 1 show the distance from the sign to the beginning of the dangerous section of road or of the zone to which the regulation applies.

### Comments by the secretariat:

**There appear possibilities of using H, 1 sign in other circumstances. Para 1 should be revised to include general rules when H sign can be used.**

(b) Additional panels H, 2 show the length of the dangerous section of road or of the zone to which the regulation applies.

### Comments by the secretariat:

**Same as 2 (a)**

(c) Additional panels are placed under the signs. However, in the case of danger warning signs of model Ab, the information to be given on the additional panels may be inscribed on the lower part of the sign.

### Comments by the secretariat:

**This provision should be revised (by referring to all possible sign classes or specific signs) and incorporated into a new para 1.**

3. The additional panels H, 3 and H, 4 concerning parking prohibitions or restrictions are of models H, 3a; H, 3b and H, 3c and H, 4a; H, 4b and H, 4c respectively. (See: section C, para. 9 (c) of

this annex).

**Comments by the secretariat:**

**The Group may wish to discuss if the reference to section C is necessary.**

(c) (i) Except in special cases, the signs shall be so placed that their disc is perpendicular to the axis of the road, or at a slight angle to the plane perpendicular to that axis.

**Comments by the secretariat:**

**This provision should explicitly say that “in special cases” ie., when the sign is placed parallel to the road axis, additional panels to be used are H, 3 panels.**

(ii) All the prohibitions and restrictions of parking shall apply only on the side of the carriageway on which the signs are placed.

**Comments by the secretariat:**

**This provision appears to be violated in practice. The Group may wish to reflect whether it needs to be relaxed by creating a new additional panel that would prohibit/restrict parking on both sides.**

(iii) Except as may be otherwise indicated:

On an additional panel H, 2 of section H of this annex and showing the distance over which the prohibition applies; or

In conformity with subparagraph (c) (v) of this paragraph, the prohibitions shall apply from a point level with the sign to the next point of entry of a road.

**Comments by the secretariat:**

**This provision requires to be elaborated. In addition, c (iii) and c (v) appear to be inconsistent (ie. the use of H, 2 and H, 3 panels for short distances).**

(iv) An additional panel H, 3a or H, 4a depicted in section H of this annex may be placed below the sign at the point where the prohibition begins.

**Comments by the secretariat:**

**Annex 3 images of “H, 4 a” and “H, 4 c” switched to indicate H, 4 a (arrow up) and H, 4 c (arrow down).**

**Perhaps, it is worth making this sentence more precise. If H, 3 a or H, 4 a is used, then it shall be placed below the sign (ie. it is optional to use H, 3 a and H, 4 a, however, when used, the panel must be placed below the sign).**

An additional panel H, 3b or H, 4b depicted in section H of this annex may be placed below signs repeating the prohibition.

**Comments by the secretariat:**

**Perhaps, it is worth making this sentence more precise. If H, 3 b or H, 4 b is used, then it shall be placed below the sign (ie. it is optional to use H, 3 b or H, 4, b, however, when used, the panel must be placed below the sign).**

A further prohibition sign supplemented by an additional panel H, 3c or H, 4c depicted in section H of this annex may be placed at the point where the prohibition ceases to apply.

**Comments by the secretariat:**

**Correct Annex 3 images.**

Panels H, 3 shall be placed parallel to the axis of the road, and panels H, 4 perpendicular to that axis. The distances, if any, shown by panels H, 3 shall be those over which the prohibition applies in the direction of the arrow.

**Comments by the secretariat:**

**Panels H, 3 shall be placed parallel the road axis when parking prohibition/restriction signs are placed parallel to the road axis.**

**Should the distances not be explicitly allowed with H, 4 panels?**

(v)45 If the prohibition ceases to apply before the next point of entry of a road, the sign bearing the additional end-of prohibition panel described in subparagraph (c) (iv) above shall be set up. However, where the prohibition applies only over a short distance, it shall be permissible to set up only one sign:

Showing in the red circle the distance on which it applies, or

Bearing an additional panel H, 3.

**Comments by the secretariat:**

**Re. the last sentence, are H, 3 panels the only panels to be used in such circumstances (see c (iii) above)?**

(vi) Where parking-meters are installed, their presence shall signify that parking is subject to payment and is limited to the period for which the meter operates.

**Comments by the secretariat:**

**In many countries, signs are used to indicate “paid parking”. The Group may wish to reflect on the H panel design to indicate parking prohibition “except for those paying”.**

(vii) [Deleted]

4. Regulatory signs may be restricted to particular road users by displaying the symbol for their category. For example: H, 5a and H, 5b.

In cases where the regulatory sign is to be regarded as not applying to a certain category of road users this is indicated by the symbol for their category and by the term "except" in the language of the particular country. For example: H, 6. if necessary the symbol may be replaced by an inscription in that language.

**Comments by the secretariat:**

**An (almost) exhaustive list of road user (image) categories should be created for Annex 3, section H (copied from Section C or referred to section C.**

5. To indicate parking space reserved for handicapped persons, panel H, 7 should be used with signs C, 18 or E, 14.

**Comments by the secretariat:**

**H, 7 should be black and white as all other Annex 3 images (unless otherwise indicated in Annex 1).**

**H, 7 panel with the term “except” shall be used with C, 18 sign to indicate ....**

**H, 7 panel with E, 14 signs shall be used to indicate ....**

6. The additional panel H, 8 displays a diagram of the intersection in which broad strokes indicate priority roads and thin strokes indicate the roads on which signs B, 1 or B, 2 are set up.

**No comments**

7. To indicate that the section of road ahead is slippery because of ice or snow the additional panel H, 9 should be used.

**Comments by the secretariat:**

**The Group may wish to discuss whether this is a true definition of this (H, 9) panel.**

NOTE APPROPRIATE TO THE WHOLE OF ANNEX I: In countries where traffic keeps to the left, signs and/or symbols shall be reversed as appropriate.

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