



Department  
for Transport

# Reverse Warning Regulation – UK Proposal

Informal document GRBP-76-07-Rev.1

76<sup>th</sup> GRBP, 5-7 September 2022,  
agenda item 5

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# Reverse Warning Regulation

- The UK was not able to vote in favour at WP.29 of the new UN Regulation on reverse warning due to an incompatibility with national legislation.
- We should like to develop a solution with contracting parties that recognises national restrictions on these warning systems.
- The Regulation is a helpful step in improving safety around vehicles while manoeuvring. We are keen to adopt an amended version as soon as possible.

# UK National Legislation

- In the UK, there are prohibitions on the use of reversing alarms between 23:30 and 07:00 hours.
- These requirements have been in place for over 50 years to reduce both annoyance in urban areas and the health impacts associated with sleep disturbance due to excessive noise.

# Pause function

- The UN Reverse Warning Regulation allows manufacturers to install a pause function.
- The installation of a pause function is limited to situations where the vehicle is fitted with a device for rear visibility as described by UN Regulation No. 158 (Reversing Motion).
- We recognise that the Regulation provides for self-adjusting sound levels based upon ambient background noise to mitigate disturbances.

# UK Proposal

- Once the UN Regulation enters into force, vehicles approved to the Regulation or complying with its provisions could not be used in UK.
- Our proposal seeks to require manufacturers to install a pause function to vehicles for use in contracting parties where national time-based restrictions apply, irrespective of a rear visibility device being fitted.
- Working document submitted to GRBP 76<sup>th</sup> ([GRBP/2022/24](#)).

# Key points

- Pause functions mandated **only** on vehicles intended for use where night time noise restrictions apply.
- All other vehicles would require a rear visibility system for a pause function to be approved.
- Technology neutral. Automatic pause functions, instead of a physical button, could be used.

# Other considerations

- The UN Reverse Warning Regulation specifies that the suspension of reverse warning sound shall be indicated clearly to the driver.
- It is our understanding that the tell-tale should comply with the requirements of UN ECE R121.
- Will the IWG be including provisions for the tell-tale indicating the suspension of the reverse warning device?

# Text of proposal

- **I. → → Proposal¶¶**

*Paragraph 14.3. and its subparagraphs, amend to read:¶¶*

"14.3. → → Pause function¶¶

**A pause function that temporarily disables the audible reverse warning device on vehicles of category M<sub>2</sub> (M > 3500 kg), N<sub>2</sub>, M<sub>3</sub> or N<sub>3</sub> shall be fitted only in accordance with the following provisions so as to comply with the prevailing legal obligations on vehicle usage in contracting parties applying this regulation. In markets where no additional obligations apply to vehicle usage a pause function complying with these provisions may be fitted in addition. Any other pause function not satisfying the specifications below is prohibited.¶¶**

14.3.1. → **When such a vehicle is equipped with a system that ensures the audible reverse warning device is capable of complying with national laws restricting use of reverse warning devices (for example during certain hours); or¶¶**

14.3.2. → **When such a vehicle is equipped with a non-audible safety system or device(s) for means of rear visibility or detection as described in UN Regulation No. 158, paragraph 1.3., allowing the driver to check the hazard area behind the vehicle, including when towing vehicle(s) of category O, and it is ensured that such safety system(s) functions while reversing; or¶¶**