



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
22 September 2023

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations

Working Party on Passive Safety

Seventy-fourth session

Geneva, 4–8 December 2023

Item 18 of the provisional agenda

Securing Children in Buses and Coaches

Progress report and new Terms of References of the Informal Working Group on Safer Transport of Children in Buses and Coaches *

Submitted by the expert from Spain on behalf of the Informal Working Group on Safer Transport of Children in Buses and Coaches

The text reproduced below was prepared by the experts of the Informal Working Group (IWG) to describe the process of development of Phase 2 of the UN Regulation.

* In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2023 as outlined in proposed programme budget for 2023 (A/77/6 (Sect. 20), table 20.6), 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.



Progress report and Terms of References of the informal group on Safer Transport of Children in Buses and Coaches, second phase

I. Introduction

1. The Working Party on Passive Safety (GRSP) agreed at its seventy-third session to continue with the phase 2 of the Informal Working Group (IWG) on safer transport of children when traveling in buses and coaches.
2. GRSP agreed to seek the consent of WP.29 to extend the mandate of the IWG to work in the phase 2 on safer transport of children when traveling in buses and coaches, focused on the bus seats equipped with 2-point safety-belts.

II. Objective of the Informal Working Group

3. The objective of the group is to extend the UN Regulation to ensure safer transport of children when traveling in buses and coaches equipped with 2-point safety-belts.

III. Background

4. The group has finalized the phase 1 focused on:
 - (a) Enhanced Child Restraint Systems (ECRS) approved according to UN Regulation No. 129 with 3-point safety-belts and or ISOFIX
 - (b) Built in systems.
5. After the finalization the phase 1, there is the need to keep working on the ECRS in combination with 2-point safety-belts:
 - (a) 90 per cent of the bus fleet equipped with 2-point safety-belts.
 - (b) Objective is the retention of the children in rollovers and the limitation of child movement in frontal impact.
 - (c) Solution for existing buses and Child Restraint systems is already provided.
6. During the seventy-third session of GRSP the request for the extension of the IWG to address this issue was submitted.
7. GRSP agreed to ask to the WP.29 the authorization to extend the mandate of the IWG.

Annex

Terms of References

I. Introduction

1. GRSP agreed to continue with the phase 2 of the IWG on safer transport of children when traveling in buses and coaches.
2. GRSP agreed to seek the consent of WP.29 to extend the mandate of the IWG to work in the phase 2 on safer transport of children when traveling in buses and coaches, focused on the bus seats equipped with 2-point safety-belts.

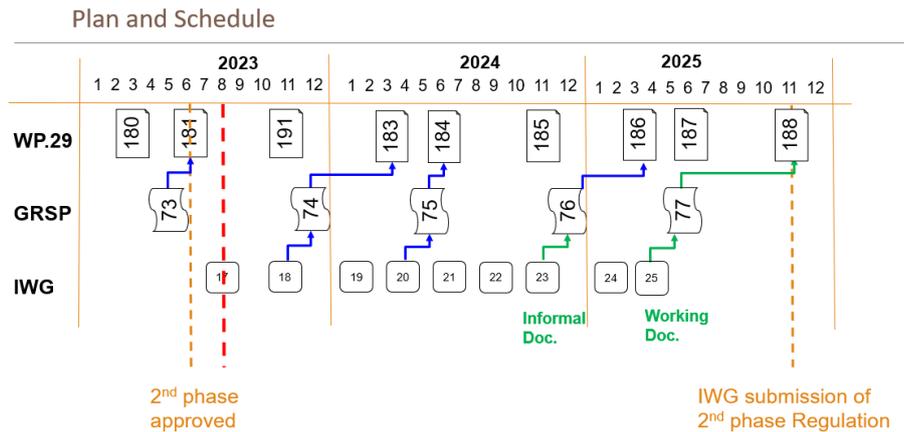
II. Objective of the informal working group.

3. The main objective of the IWG is to define the technical aspects that shall be considered in order to transport children in bus seats equipped with 2-point safety-belts.
4. To ensure the good retention of the children in the seat when traveling in buses and coaches in order to ensure the same level of protection as the adults and avoid the ejection of the children from their seats.

III. Work plan and time schedule

May 2023	<i>GRSP agreed to extend the mandate of the IWG to work on the phase 2 of the Regulation.</i>
October 2023	New ToR for the Phase 2 are submitted to the GRSG ad informal document for information.
December 2023	New ToR for the Phase 2 are submitted to the GRSP. Every two months – online meetings Two face to face meetings per year.
December 2024	Informal document GRSP
May 2025	Working document GRSP
November 2025	Working document WP.29

*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. The IWG is a sub-group of GRSP and is open to all participants of GRSP and Working Party on General Safety Provisions (GRSG) including contracting parties and non-governmental organizations to the 1958 and 1998 Agreements.
6. The IWG will report to the GRSP, GRSG and WP.29.
7. The IWG will be led by the expert from Spain and supported by the expert from European Association of Automotive Suppliers (CLEPA) for the secretary role.
8. The official language of the IWG will be English.
9. All documents must be submitted to the Secretary of the group in a suitable electronic format at least (10) working days before the meeting. The documents will be posted on the UN website at least (5) working days in advance of the meetings.
10. The Secretary of the IWG will distribute a draft meeting minute 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 leadership. 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.