

Partial amendments of Safety Regulations of Road Transport Vehicles Act, equipment type approval regulations, and announcements that provide the details of the Safety Regulations of Road Transport Vehicles Act

1. Background

In order to ensure the safety of automobiles by promoting international consistency of automobiles safety regulation, Japan contracted the United Nations "type approval mutual recognition agreement of the vehicle and etc.", hereinafter referred to as "1958 Agreement" in 1998. Since that year, in a phased manner, we have adopted the rules that are based on the mutual recognition agreement, hereinafter referred to as the "UNR".

Now that out of UNR, "Quiet Road Transport Vehicles with regard to their reduced audibility (UNR No.138)" was recently adopted at the 168th meeting of the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP29) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE).

Taking into account the international activities and indications that Hybrid Electric Vehicles, etc. are dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists due to their low level of traveling sound emitted at low speeds, based on the requirements specified in UNR No. 138 above, the government of Japan will establish national regulations (Safety Regulations of Road Transport Vehicles Act, Transport Ordinance No. 67 in 1951, hereinafter referred to as the "Safety Regulation" and the notice defining the details of the 2002 Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Notification No. 619., hereinafter referred to as "Announcement of Details") in this October.

Moreover, in order to promote further safety measures for pedestrians including blind people and cyclists, the government of Japan will prohibit the Pause Function of Acoustic Vehicle Alerting System (AVAS) in the national regulations above.

2. Outline of Amendment

Safety measures for Hybrid Electric Vehicles, etc. with regard to their reduced audibility (Safety Regulation and Announcement of Details will be newly established)

【Scope】

Same as the UNR No. 138.

【Technical requirements】

- Same as the UNR No.138, except the following.
- "Pause function" which enables the drivers to halt the operation of AVAS shall be prohibited.

【Date of application】

- New model : 8 March 2018
- Existing model : 8 October 2020

※ Please refer to the web page for UN Regulation original

http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp29/wp29wgs/wp29gen/wp29ap_nov15.html