

Brief Description of “the UN/ECE 1958 Agreement” on Reciprocal Recognition of Type Approval of Motor Vehicles, etc.

1. Purpose of the Agreement

This is a multilateral agreement concluded by the United Nations’ Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in the year 1958. Its official name is “Agreement concerning the adoption of uniform technical prescriptions for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or used on wheeled vehicles and the conditions for reciprocal recognition of approvals granted on the basis of these prescriptions” (hereinafter referred to as “the UN/ECE 1958 Agreement” on Reciprocal Recognition of Type Approval of Motor Vehicles, etc.).

The purpose of the Agreement on Reciprocal Recognition of Type Approval of Motor Vehicles, etc. is to expedite the harmonization and reciprocal recognition of regulations for each motor vehicle device concerning the safety and environment.

2. Current Status of Accession to the Agreement

As of June, 2000, 35 countries and one community have acceded to the Agreement as follows:

Germany*, France*, Italy*, the Netherlands*, Sweden*, Belgium*, Hungary, Czech Republic, Spain*, Yugoslavia, U.K.*, Austria*, Luxembourg*, Switzerland, Norway, Finland*, Denmark*, Romania, Poland, Portugal*, Russian Federation, Greece*, Ireland*, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Belarus, Estonia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Latvia, Bulgaria, Australia, European Community (EC), and Japan
(The “*” mark represents an EU member country.)

3. Applicable Objects of Reciprocal Recognition

In Europe, as for those devices necessary in the certification of motor vehicles to be newly manufactured, it is mandatory obligation to acquire type designation for the devices concerned. The type designation of these devices becomes the applicable objects of the reciprocal recognition in the Agreement on Reciprocal Recognition of Type Approval of Motor Vehicles, etc.

4. Establishment and Amendment of Regulations

- (1) Concerning the designated regulations, their establishment and amendment are carried out by the Administrative Committee(AC.1) after having undergone deliberations at the world forum for harmonization of motor vehicle regulations(UN/ECE/TRANS/WP 29). At present, the contracting parties of “the UN/ECE 1958 Agreement” on Reciprocal Recognition of Type Approval of Motor Vehicles, etc. in 35 countries and one community and the U.S. Canada, South Africa are the participants of the Working Party.
- (2) As of June, 2000, 110 Agreement Regulations (Standards) have been established for devices.

5. Flow of Reciprocal Recognition based on the Agreement

- (1) Each Agreement contracting party can select its own acceptable the Agreement Regulations.
 - (2) When each Agreement contracting country carries out type designation based on the Agreement Regulations concerned in connection with their accepted regulations, a designation mark bearing the country number and an approval number will be given (e.g. E1 in the case of Germany).
 - (3) In respect to those devices for which type approval has been granted, it becomes unnecessary to take the certification procedure in other Agreement contracting countries that have accepted the Agreement Regulations concerned.
- o Japan acceded to the Agreement on Reciprocal Recognition of Type Approval of Motor Vehicles, etc. in November 24, 1998. The designation mark E43 is given to those devices Japan has designated.