[Attachment]

Partial Amendment of Safety Regulations for Road Vehicles with regard to the Expansion of Devices Subject to Reciprocal Recognition Based on the UN/ECE 1958 Agreement on Reciprocal Recognition of Type Approval of Motor Vehicles, etc.

1. Background to Revisions

In order to address to the ever-growing international distribution of motor vehicles and automotive devices in recent years, in November 1998 Japan acceded to the "The UN/ECE 1958 Agreement" on Reciprocal Recognition of Type Approval of Motor Vehicles, etc.. (abbreviated title) (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement") that aims to promote the harmonization of regulations and reciprocal recognition of approvals. In any contracting parties of the Agreement, those vehicle devices which have received type approval [NOTE)] according to the approval regulations prescribed for each motor vehicle device based on the Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "ECE Regulations") are exempted from testing in any other contracting countries where the ECE Regulations are adopted.

So far, Japan has adopted 17 regulations covering 29 items as objects subject to reciprocal recognition according to the Agreement.

With regard to the five devices as enumerated in Section 2, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport is scheduled to carry out a partial amendment of the Safety Regulations for Road Vehicles (Ministry of Transport Ordinance No.67, 1951) and the Type Designation Regulations for Devices (Ministry of Transport Ordinance No.66, 1998) so that the devices above may become objects subject to reciprocal recognition according to the Agreement.

Further, in making these revisions, regulations on the following items will be strengthened especially for the purpose of preventing rear-end collisions and reducing damage at the time of such collisions.

1) Mandatory requirement for high-mount stop lamp (S3 category devices) on passenger vehicles
2) Expansion of "vehicle types required to have rear underrun protective devices for truck" to include trucks 3.5 tons or heavier in gross vehicle weight

As regards the schedule of the adoption of ECE Regulations in the future, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport has a target to adopt around 30 regulations by the end of the year 2003. To accomplish this target, MLIT is planning to adopt about five to six regulations every year from now on. When advancing this work, MLIT will select such regulations as objects, starting from those having higher priority, taking into consideration those items receiving strong request at home and abroad, those which have less differences from Japanese regulations and those where the rationalization of examination is easier.

NOTE: The provision of Article 75-2 of the Road Vehicles Act (Law No.185 of 1951) has allowed the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport to designate type of motor vehicle devices. Once those devices have received this type designation, they are exempted from examination with regard to conformity with the Safety Regulations for Road Vehicles at a time when the application for type designation of the whole motor vehicle is submitted.

2. Outline of Partial Amendment of Safety Regulations for Road Vehicles

The following five items will become subject to reciprocal recognition based on the Agreement, and efforts will be made to achieve harmonization between each ECE Regulation and Safety Regulation for Road Vehicles:
Door latches and door retention components (ECE Regulation No. 11), Seat, their anchorages and head restraints (ECE Regulation No. 17), Head restraints (ECE Regulation No. 25), Installation of lighting and light-signalling devices (ECE Regulation No. 48), and Rear underrun protective devices (ECE Regulation No. 58).

Details of the amendments are as follows.

With respect to door latches and door retention components, because efforts have already been made to achieve harmonization between ECE Regulation No. 11 and the terms of Safety Regulations, the relevant specifications shall not be amended.

(Major Amendments)

(1) *Seat* (Safety Regulation Article 22)

In order to achieve harmonization with ECE Regulation No. 17, requirements and/or the scope of application for regulations of seats and seat anchorages, etc. will be reviewed.

(2) *Head restraints* (Safety Regulation Article 22-4)

In order to achieve harmonization with ECE Regulation No. 25, it will be mandatory to install head restraints on the driver's seat and on adjacent seats at the side of the vehicle for trucks and buses up to 3.5 tons in gross vehicle weight.

(3) *Installation of lighting and light-signalling devices* (Safety Regulation Article 32 etc.)

The stipulation requiring that high-mount stop lamp be attached to passenger vehicles having up to 10 occupants per vehicle will be revised.

In order to achieve harmonization with ECE Regulation No. 48, revision will be made to limit the color of the headlamps and front position lamps to white only. In addition, respecting the installation position of side-marker lamps and side retro-reflectors, revision will be made so that the horizontal interval is within 3 meters.

(4) *Rear underrun protective devices* (Safety Regulation Article 18-2)

At present, rear underrun protection devices must be installed on trucks 7 tons or heavier in gross vehicle weight. Revision requiring that such devices be installed on trucks 3.5 tons or heavier in gross vehicle weight will be made.

In order to achieve harmonization with ECE Regulation No. 58, revision will be made covering the total width of the rear underrun protective devices. The outermost line of the device shall be within 100 millimeters from the outermost side of the wheel at the vehicle rear axle.

In addition, concerning exemption from the said requirement because of a structure that prevents rear underrun by other vehicles the scope will be clarified.

(5) *Others*

In conjunction with revision of ECE Regulation associated with braking of passenger cars (ECE Regulation No.13H), which have been adopted by Japan, amendment will be made respecting the braking capacity of brakes other than the main brake and respecting the structural requirements of devices which gather pressure by which the main brake operates. (Safety Regulation Article 12-2-4 and Safety Regulation Article 12-2-8)

3. Outline of Partial Amendment of Device Type Approval Regulations

Devices associated with the five ECE Regulations to be adopted will become subject to reciprocal recognition based on the Agreement. Procedural amendments will be made including addition of the five devices as special devices based on Article 75-2 of the Road Vehicles Act.