

April 20, 2007

Japan Automobile Standards Internationalization Center

Road Transport Bureau,  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

## **JASIC decides its policy on activities aiming for extending mutual recognition system of certification on motor vehicle safety and environmental regulations to whole vehicles**

1. On April 19, the Japan Automobile Standards Internationalization Center (JASIC) decided its policy plan on activities, aiming to extend the mutual recognition system from the equipment and parts to whole vehicles. It is intended that such policy will promote further harmonization of safety and environmental regulations on motor vehicles and their mutual recognition. JASIC will start studies on the development of proposals to formulate a basis for mutual recognition of a whole vehicle certification, including harmonization of safety and environmental regulations, vehicle type classification, and certification process.

2. Regarding safety and environmental regulations on motor vehicles, each country is making effort to promote harmonization and mutual recognition at the equipment and parts level, based on the UN/ECE 1958 Agreement. Extending such effort to whole vehicles will enable standardization of items for a whole vehicle certification to be applied as safety and environmental regulations, vehicle type classification, and certification process, thus contributing greatly to the international harmonization of regulations and mutual recognition.

JASIC plans to proceed with its studies in Japan to formulate a basis for mutual recognition of a whole vehicle certification, and series of proposals to the other contracting parties of the UN/ECE 1958 Agreement and/or the 1998 Agreement are expected, based on the result of such studies. The basic idea will be revealed by the end of FY 2009, followed by the series of proposals by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. Those proposals are expected to reach conclusions by the end of FY 2015. After introduction of the basis for the mutual recognition of a whole

vehicle certification, the ultimate goal of establishing mutual recognition of a whole vehicle certification might be realized, if the contracting parties could conclude with a certain revised or new agreement necessary for such purpose.

3. JASIC, since its establishment in 1987, has worked to promote international harmonization of motor vehicle regulations and mutual recognition, supported by the government and industries in Japan including the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, Inc., Japan Automobile Importers Association, and Japan Auto Parts Industries Association. Particularly since 1999 after Japan joined the UN/ECE 1958 Agreement and the 1998 Agreement, JASIC has assisted the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport in activities as a contracting party at the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (UN/ECE/WP.29).

Japan has adopted 34 UN/ECE Regulations based on the UN/ECE1958 Agreement and has actively make contributions in UN/ECE/WP.29 including formulating five items as global technical regulations (gtr). As a result, mutual recognition under the 1958 Agreement has been extended to the majority of safety equipment of passenger vehicles in Japan, and thus harmonization of regulations has progressed considerably.

Note 1) UN/ECE 1958 Agreement

(Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Technical Prescriptions for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts Which Can Be Fitted and/or Be Used on Wheeled Vehicles and the Conditions for Reciprocal Recognition of Approvals Granted on the Basis of These Prescriptions)

The United Nations adopted this agreement in 1958. Its purposes are to establish uniform provisions on the safety and environment performance of motor vehicle equipment and to facilitate reciprocal recognition of approvals for such equipment.

Contracting Parties:

Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, Hungary, Czech Republic, Spain, Serbia, United Kingdom, Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Romania, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Greece, Ireland, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Belarus, Estonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Latvia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Turkey, Azerbaijan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, European Community, Japan, Australia, Ukraine, South Africa, New Zealand, Cyprus, Malta, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Montenegro  
(46 countries/one region, as of April 2007)

Note 2) UN/ECE 1998 Agreement (or Global Agreement)

(Agreement Concerning the Establishing of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts Which Can Be Fitted and/or Be Used on Wheeled Vehicles, done at Geneva on 25 June 1998)

For improving the safety and environmental considerations of motor vehicles and their parts and enhancing their international distribution, the United Nations adopted this agreement in 1998 with the objective of global harmonization of automobile safety and environmental technology regulations which still differ from one country to another.

Contracting Parties:

Canada, United States of America, Japan, France, United Kingdom,

European Community, Germany, Russian Federation, People's Republic of China,  
Republic of Korea, Italy, South Africa, Finland, Hungary, Turkey, Slovakia,  
New Zealand, Netherlands, Azerbaijan, Spain, Romania, Sweden, Norway, Cyprus,  
Luxembourg, Malaysia, India, Lithuania, Moldova  
(28 countries/one region, as of April 2007)

Note 3) World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (UN/ECE/WP.29)

This forum was set up in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE). The Forum is in charge of formulating internationally harmonized regulations regarding motor vehicle safety and environmental performance, and administration of UN/ECE 1958 Agreement (for reciprocal recognition) and 1998 Agreement.

Reference: Japan Automobile Standards Internationalization Center (JASIC)

JASIC was established in October 1987 to promote internationalization of motor vehicle regulations and certification systems in Japan. Supported by the government and industries, JASIC is playing a central role in UN/ECE/WP.29 for promoting harmonization of regulations and cooperating with Asian nations for enhancing harmonization of regulations and so on.