

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

[Docket No. NHTSA-03-14395]

**NHTSA's Activities under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 1998 Global Agreement**

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice of activities under the 1998 Global Agreement and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NHTSA is publishing this notice to inform the public of the tentative schedule of meetings of the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) and its working parties of experts for calendar year 2003. In addition, this notice informs the public about the 1998 Global Agreement program of work that was agreed to by the Executive Committee of the Agreement and adopted by WP.29. Finally, NHTSA is seeking comments regarding a draft U.S. proposal for the development of a global technical regulation on door locks and door retention components under the 1998 Global Agreement. Publication of this information is consistent with NHTSA's Statement of Policy regarding Agency Policy Goals and Public Participation in the Implementation of the 1998 Agreement on Global Technical Regulations.

**DATES:** Written comments may be submitted to this agency and must be received by March 5, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit your comments in writing to: Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, 20590. Alternatively, you may submit your comments electronically by logging onto the Dockets Management System Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Help & Information" or "Help/Info" to view instructions for filing your comments electronically. Regardless of how you submit your comments, you should mention the docket number of this document.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Julie Abraham, Director of the Office of International Policy and Harmonization (NPP-01), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, 20590; phone number (202) 366-2114, fax number (202) 366-2559.

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**I. Introduction**

On August 23, 2000, NHTSA published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 51236) a statement of policy indicating that the agency would provide each calendar year a list of scheduled meetings of WP.29 and the working parties of experts, as well as meetings of the Executive Committee of the 1998 Global Agreement. Further, in that policy statement, the agency stated that it would keep the public informed about a program of work under the Agreement (*i.e.*, the agreed subjects for which a global technical regulations should be developed) as well as a list of candidate global technical regulations that have been formally proposed by a contracting party and referred to a working party of experts. NHTSA also indicated that before submitting a draft U.S. proposal for the development of a global technical regulation to WP.29, NHTSA would publish a notice requesting public comments on the draft proposal.

On July 18, 2000, NHTSA published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 44565) a notice seeking public comments on its preliminary recommendations for the first motor vehicle safety technical regulations to be considered for establishment under the Agreement. On January 18, 2001, the agency, after consideration of the comments, published in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 4893) a notice outlining its final recommendations. In that notice, the agency stated that it would present those recommendations to WP.29 and propose them for consideration by other contracting parties of the 1998 Global Agreement concerning the adoption of a program of work under the Agreement. The agency also stated that it would report to the public the final outcome of the deliberations.

**II. List of Tentative Meetings of WP.29 and Its Working Parties of Experts**

The following list contains meetings tentatively scheduled for calendar year 2003. The meeting dates are subject to confirmation by the Inland Transport Committee during its February 2003 session. The agency does not anticipate any changes to the schedule. In addition, working parties of experts may schedule, if necessary, informal

meetings in addition to their regularly scheduled ones in order to address specific regulations.

**Schedule of Meetings of WP.29 and Its Working Parties of Experts***January*

- 13-17 Working Party on Pollution and Energy (GRPE) (45th session).

*February*

- 3-7 Working Party on Brakes and Running Gear (GRRF) (53rd session).

*March*

- 10 Administrative Committee for the Coordination of Work (WP.29/AC.2) (81st session).
- 11-14 World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)—(129th session) and Administrative Committee to the 1958 Agreement (AC.1) (23rd session) and Executive Committee of the 1998 Agreement (AC.3) (seventh session).

*April*

- 7-11 Working Party on Lighting and Light-Signalling (GRE) (50th session).

*May*

- 5-9 Working Party on General Safety Provisions (GRSG) (84th session).
- 20-23 Working Party on Pollution and Energy (GRPE) (46th session).

*June*

- 2-6 Working Party on Passive Safety (GRSP) (33rd session).
- 23 Administrative Committee for the Coordination of Work (WP.29/AC.2) (82nd session).
- 24-27 World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) (130th session) and AC.1 (24th session) and AC.3 (eighth session).

*September*

- 15-19 Working Party on Lighting and Light-Signalling (GRE) (51st session).

*October*

- 6-8 Working Party on Brakes and Running Gear (GRRF) (54th session).
- 9-10 Working Party on Noise (GRB) (38th session).
- 21-24 Working Party on General Safety Provisions (GRSG) (85th session).

*November*

- 10 Administrative Committee for the Coordination of Work (WP.29/AC.2) (83rd session).