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Working Party on Passive Safety

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OTHER BUSINESS

Exchange of information on national and international requirements on passive safety

Submitted by the expert from Sweden */

The text reproduced below was prepared by the expert from Sweden in order to inform the Working Party on Passive Safety (GRSP) on the Swedish National activities regarding alcohol ignition interlock devices ("Alco lock"). It is based on a document without a symbol (informal document No. GRSP-42-21) distributed during the forty-second session of GRSP.

*/ In accordance with the programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee for 2006-2010 (ECE/TRANS/166/Add.1, programme activity 02.4), the World Forum will develop, harmonize and update Regulations in order to enhance performance of vehicles with respect to passive safety. The present document is submitted in conformity with that mandate.

Information on Swedish National activities regarding alcohol ignition interlock devices ("Alco lock")

Sweden is considering the introduction of national legislations to increase the use of "Alco lock" devices for impaired driving prevention in commercial buses and heavy goods vehicles. However, the Swedish Administration would prefer to devise a common solution, since this is a wide-spread problem.

It has to be noted that 25 per cent of all fatal road accidents in the European Union (10,000 lives/year) are caused by alcohol-related crashes. Fighting "drink and drive" is one of the most important measures to improve road safety.

The Swedish Administration thinks that "Alco lock" devices (or other techniques that prevent impaired driving) should be fitted into all new commercial busses and heavy goods vehicles. Companies must be encouraged to guarantee sober driving by introducing "Alco locks" or other techniques that prevent impaired driving.

Impaired driving is just as common among commercial drivers as among others. Accidents with heavy vehicles involved have serious consequences. It is important to increase the use of supporting techniques that prevent impaired drivers in company-owned vehicles. The "Alco lock" can guarantee sober transports if used by companies or in public transports.

The "Alco lock" is one of the effective ways to reduce driving while impaired and save lives. "Alco locks" can be used to prevent drink drivers to relapse. "Alco lock" can also prevent drink and drive in the first place. "Alco lock" are used in Sweden both to prevent drivers from relapsing and to prevent drink and drive in the first place.

The Swedish Administration has the intention to forward proposals at the international level to enforce the use of Alco locks into busses and heavy goods vehicles.

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