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Framework / Quality & Safety / Other

World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Inland Transport Committee

UNECE WP.29, the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, develops the UN Regulations, Global Technical Regulations and Rules under the 1958, 1998 and 1997 Agreements.



What it is

The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) is the permanent working party of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee that develops and administers the UN Regulations, UN Global Technical Regulations and UN Rules under the 1958, 1998 and 1997 Agreements, including the vehicle cybersecurity and software update regulations UN R155 and UN R156. Governments that are Contracting Parties to those Agreements apply its instruments, and vehicle manufacturers and suppliers comply with them through type approval; the forum was established on June 6, 1952 as the Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles and took its present name at its 120th session in March 2000.

At a glance

PUBLISHER
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Inland Transport Committee

TYPE
Regulation

VERSION
1958 Agreement (Revision 3 in force September 14, 2017), 1998 Agreement (in force August 25, 2000) and 1997 Agreement; status document ECE/TRANS/WP.29/343/Rev.33 (February 2025)

EFFECTIVE
June 6, 1952 (established as the Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles); World Forum since March 2000

DOMAIN
Quality & Safety

FAMILY
Other

REGION
Global (Contracting Parties to the 1958, 1998 and 1997 Agreements; secretariat at UNECE, Geneva)

INDUSTRY
Automotive

ADOPTION MODEL
Regulatory Compliance

IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY
High

Source: unece.org/transport/vehicle-regulations/world-forum-harmonization-vehicle-regulations-wp29

Why it matters

- **One approval, many markets** Under the 1958 Agreement an approval granted by one Contracting Party is recognized by the others applying the same UN Regulation; Regulation No. 0 extends this to whole-vehicle type approval (IWVTA).
- **A public regulatory calendar** ECE/TRANS/WP.29/343/Rev.33 and its addenda record, for every UN Regulation, the Contracting Parties applying it with their date of application (Add.1) and the entry into force of each supplement and series of amendments (Add.2).
- **Open, recorded decision-making** Session reports (for example ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1153 for June 2020 and 1190 for March 2026) publish attendance, the votes of AC.1 and AC.3 and the documents adopted.
- **Three legal routes** Type approval with reciprocal recognition (1958), global technical regulations for self-certification markets (1998) and rules for in-service inspection (1997).

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How SmartSuite supports UNECE WP.29

Regulation Register by Market

Record, per Contracting Party and per UN Regulation or GTR, the date of application and the series in force (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/343/Rev.33, Add.1 and Add.2), with the Approval Authority and Technical Service used.

Session and Amendment Watch

Log the three WP.29 sessions a year, the AC.1 and AC.3 votes and the entry-into-force dates of new supplements and series, and open an impact assessment for each affected product line.

Type-Approval Evidence

Keep the information documents, test reports, approval communications and extensions per vehicle type and Regulation, with the ten-year retention periods the Regulations set.

Cybersecurity and Software Update Obligations

Hold the UN R155 CSMS certificate, the per-type risk assessments and the UN R156 software update management evidence as requirements with owners and renewal dates.

Supplier Regulatory Requirements

Pass the applicable Regulations, series and test obligations to component suppliers and track their declarations and evidence in Third Party Risk Management.

Regulatory Change Impact

Route each adopted amendment from the session report to engineering, homologation and quality owners with the deadline, the affected markets and the decision record.

Common framework mappings

GDPR | ISO/SAE 21434 | ISO 27001:2022 | NIST CSF 2.0 | NIST 800-53 Rev.5 | UNECE R155

Official resources

Status of the 1958 Agreement (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/343/Rev.33)

The 2025 status document: Contracting Parties, the UN Regulations in force and their latest amendments.

documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g25/030/18/pdf/g2503018.pdf

WP.29 session report, 2026 (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1190)

The report of the World Forum session held in 2026, with the regulations adopted and the work of its subsidiary Working Parties.

documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g26/053/33/pdf/g2605333.pdf

WP.29 181st session report (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1153)

The June 2020 session report that records the adoption of UN Regulations Nos. 155 and 156.

documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g20/163/02/pdf/g2016302.pdf

Technical Guidance on Vehicle Standards

Outlines technical details and standards for vehicle regulation compliance under UNECE WP.29.

unece.org/technical-standards

Frequently asked questions

What is UNECE WP.29, and when was it established?

WP.29 is the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, a permanent working party of the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. It was established on June 6, 1952 by Resolution No. 45 of the ECE Subcommittee on Road Transport as the Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles, held its first session in February 1953, and took its present name at its 120th session in March 2000 (TRANS/WP.29/2000/65). It meets three times a year in Geneva; its 198th session was held March 10 to 13, 2026.

What are the 1958, 1998 and 1997 Agreements?

The 1958 Agreement (in force June 20, 1959; Revision 3 in force September 14, 2017) provides for UN Regulations, type approval and reciprocal recognition of approvals among its 62 Contracting Parties. The 1998 Agreement (concluded June 25, 1998, in force August 25, 2000; 40 Contracting Parties in March 2026) provides for UN Global Technical Regulations that countries without type approval transpose into national law. The 1997 Agreement, done at Vienna on November 13, 1997, provides for UN Rules on periodical technical inspections and recognition of inspection certificates.

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How is a UN Regulation adopted and applied?

A Working Party (GR) adopts a draft and submits it to WP.29 and to the Administrative Committee of the 1958 Agreement (AC.1), which votes; UN Regulation No. 155, for example, passed at the 181st session in June 2020 with 42 votes for, none against and one abstention (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1153, paragraph 49). The text enters into force on the date recorded in the status document ECE/TRANS/WP.29/343 and its Add.2, and each Contracting Party that applies it grants and recognizes approvals from that date (Add.1). Manufacturers then obtain type approval from an Approval Authority and mark approved vehicles with the E-mark.

Which Working Parties sit under WP.29, and where does cybersecurity belong?

Six: GRBP (noise and tyres), GRE (lighting and light-signalling), GRPE (pollution and energy), GRSG (general safety provisions), GRSP (passive safety) and GRVA (automated/autonomous and connected vehicles). WP.29 converted the former Working Party on Brakes and Running Gear (GRRF) into GRVA at its 175th session in June 2018 (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/1139, paragraph 33). GRVA and its informal working group on cyber security and over-the-air software updates drafted UN Regulations No. 155 and No. 156 and continue to maintain them.

How do I find out which UN Regulations a country applies and when an amendment takes effect?

From the status document of the 1958 Agreement, ECE/TRANS/WP.29/343, revised each March. Revision 33 (February 2025) lists the Contracting Parties and the UN Regulations; its Add.1 gives, per Regulation, each Contracting Party's date of application and its designated Approval Authorities and Technical Services, and its Add.2 gives the entry-into-force date of every supplement and series of amendments with the session and document that adopted it. The UNECE secretariat updates the document electronically between revisions, and the session reports record each new adoption.

License included / downloadable: Yes WP.29 session reports, the status documents and the texts of the UN Regulations and Global Technical Regulations are United Nations documents, free on the UNECE vehicle regulations pages and by document symbol on documents.un.org.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/unece-wp29-world-forum-for-harmonization-of-vehicle-regulations