



INTERNATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION COMMITTEE

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THE IMPACT OF THE UNIQUE IDENTIFIER ON PERIODICAL AND ROADSIDE INSPECTION

The Unique Identifier UI is an initiative that removes the approval marking engraved in an approved device, like lamps, tyres, rear-view mirrors, etc. It replaces data with a reference, called UI, that leads to a PDF containing such information.

The UI is defined by the WP.29 for the 1958 Agreement. It has quite some positive aspects, whereas some drawbacks jeopardize sovereign activities like periodical and roadside inspections. The reason is that accessing a PDF is more time-consuming than reading device marking. Moreover, in some particular cases, like remote areas, the lack of internet connection would make it impossible to retrieve the corresponding PDF and thus conduct an appropriate check of the vehicle.



The picture beside shows an example. The group of the semitrailer's rear lamps must contain a triangular red retroreflector. That retroreflector is not apparent to identify visually. With the current marking scheme, the inspector only has to look for the symbol "IIIB" in the group of rear lights, whereas the UI will force to note the UI number, go to a computer, download the UI information and check its content. Again, that may be impossible if the internet signal is lacking.

The additional workload of retrieving PDFs for this might become overwhelming. We can take 6 UI per vehicle in a conservative estimate, only for lamps. Checking the 5% of those devices in the ca. 200 m periodical inspections per year conducted in the EU generates downloading 60 m PDF per year.

Altogether, the current definition of the UI creates an important burden and, in some cases, the impossibility of properly conducting sovereign safety-related activities like periodical and roadside inspections.

The way forward is to redefine the UI, so the relevant information stays engraved on the devices. Other information like the approval number, the most space-occupying one, may stay in the PDF. Therefore, **we ask to slow down the process related to the UI to develop a satisfactory solution that takes into consideration crucial road-safety activities like periodical and roadside inspections.**

For more information, please get in touch with Eduard Fernández – e.fernandez@citainsp.org