First edition 2005-12-01

Road vehicles — Ergonomic aspects of in-vehicle presentation for transport information and control systems — Warning systems

Véhicules routiers — Aspects ergonomiques de la présentation des systèmes de commande et d'information des transports à l'intérieur des véhicules — Systèmes avertisseurs



ISO/TR 16352:2005(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

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ISO/TR 16352 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 22, *Road vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 13, *Ergonomics applicable to road vehicles*.

Introduction

From a task/function analytic perspective, the task of driving is composed of three major interlinked categories of activity (Hancock and Parasuraman, 1992):

- a) vehicle control;
- b) navigation;
- c) collision avoidance.

Each of these functions contribute to the overall workload imposed on the driver. Even under routine, low-traffic conditions, the driver must co-ordinate several tasks together and, generally, can do so quite efficiently. Many of these task components become highly automatized with practice, so that under normal driving conditions the demands of divided attention on the drivers will generally be within the limits of their attentional capacity. However, during more demanding traffic situations, for example, when traffic density increases or at intersections or traffic roundabouts, divided attention demands may sometimes exceed a driver's capabilities.

The driver has to deal with a lot of information which has different situation-dependent priorities and which is more or less expected by the driver. Highly demanding situations are characterized by high time and spatial density or by an extended spatial range of information. Parts of the information are natural and parts are coded within or outside the vehicle. While receiving, processing and reacting to the information, the driver can be overtaxed, which results in critical driving situations with increased accident probability.

This is the motivation to support the driver with assistance systems. The degree of assistance available seems likely to increase considerably over the coming years. Assistance systems can, for example, control speed and distance between vehicles and vehicle position in relation to the road. They not only aim to optimize driver strain and increase driving safety, but also to achieve maximum driver acceptance. For example, the S.A.N.T.O.S system is a (adaptive) driver-assistance system which integrates systems like active cruise control (ACC), heading control (HC), navigation, telephone and radio (Weiße et al., 2002).

Most of these assistance systems announce any abnormal or dangerous state of the car or the driving environment to the driver and require a relatively quick reaction by the driver. These systems warn the driver and convey an appropriate message to the driver. So, with an increasing number of assistance systems, more respective warnings are expected. These warnings need to be designed individually and with respect to their interrelation.