**Competitors / Teams,**

Please note the following changes with regard to safety equipment that have been published by the FIA in the current (2017) version of Appendix J, Article 253 Safety Equipment;

**Art 6.1.2 – Harnesses.** Please be aware that there is a new safety harness standard (FIA8853-2016, refer Tech list #57)  that will become mandatory from next season for Group R5 cars and S2000 cars meaning as of 01-01-2018. For all other cars it will become mandatory from 01-01-2023. So, for this season the existing standard FIA8853-1998 is acceptable provided the harness is within 5 years of age (refer to validity label on all straps of the harness).

**Art 7.1 – Extinguishing systems, Application.** Please be aware that there is a new  extinguisher standard (FIA8865-2016, refer FIA Technical list #52) that concerns both mounted and manual extinguishers. The new standard is mandatory for the 2017 season for Group R5 cars and S2000 cars. These cars must have a mounted system as well as a manual extinguisher/s fitted in compliance with FIA8865-2016. For all other cars there is no change from the previously published regulations and there is no introduction date published for these other cars either.

**Art 8.0 – Safety Cages.** Just to be aware that there are changes to this article but only for cars homologated by the FIA from 01-01-2017. Refer to the current version of 253 for details. So for all existing cars, the regulations as published last year (App J 253-2016) remain applicable.

**Art 8.3.5 – Protective padding.** A small change here, that requires protective padding in compliance with FIA8857-2001 to be fitted anywhere where the occupants bodies (not only the head!) may come into contact with the safety cage. Not really as onerous as it may initially sound when correctly understood. Refer App J drawing 253-68 for applicable members of the safety cage. The padding must also be affixed so that it cannot be easily moved out of position.

**Art 14.1.2 – FIA Approved Safety Fuel Tanks.** This is a significant change to last year. All cars classified under Group N and Group A will now be required to have a safety fuel tank in compliance with either FIA FT3, FT3.5 or FT5 to be fitted. If you require any further information regarding classification of your car please contact the APRC Coordinator for assistance.  For Group R5 and S2000 cars there is no change as these cars must comply with their own specific regulations with regard to fuel tanks.

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