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3. A driver alarm as recited in claim 2, wherein the control means further comprises:

- a microcontroller for monitoring the pressure signal and speed signal and for activating the alarm means;
- a data interface for translating the pressure signal and speed signal into a form usable by the microcontroller, and for sending a display signal to the display means; and
- a power switch for supplying power to the microcontroller and the data interface.

4. A driver alarm as recited in claim 3, wherein the microcontroller will not determine that the hazardous condition exists until the vehicle's speed exceeds a threshold value.

5. A driver alarm as recited in claim 1, wherein the alarm means is an electroacoustic transducer.

6. A driver alarm for alerting a driver of a hazardous condition of the onset of sleepiness or lack of attentiveness, wherein the driver alarm comprises:

- a transducer, adapted to be attached to a steering element on a vehicle, for converting hand grip pressure on the steering element into a variable, electrical pressure signal corresponding to the hand grip pressure;
- a speed sensor for detecting the vehicle's speed and creating a speed signal corresponding to the vehicle's speed;
- an electroacoustic transducer for alerting the driver of the hazardous condition;
- a power switch;
- a microcontroller for monitoring the pressure signal and the speed signal, for creating an alarm point based on the monitored speed signal and a portion of the monitored pressure signal during an initial start-up interval of each session of operation of the driver alarm, and for activating the electroacoustic transducer when the alarm point is exceeded; and
- a data interface for translating the pressure signal and speed signal into a form usable by the microcontroller.

7. A driver alarm as recited in claim 6, further comprising a display, driven by a display signal generated by the microcontroller, for displaying the status of the microcontroller's assessment of the existence of the hazardous condition.

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8. A driver alarm as recited in claim 6, wherein the microcontroller will not determine that the hazardous condition exists until the vehicle's speed exceeds a threshold value.

9. A driver alarm for alerting a driver of a hazardous condition of the onset of sleepiness or lack of attentiveness, wherein the driver alarm comprises:

- a transducer, adapted to be attached to a steering element on a vehicle, for converting hand grip pressure on the steering element into a variable, electrical pressure signal corresponding to the hand grip pressure;
- a speed sensor for detecting the vehicle's speed and creating a speed signal corresponding to the vehicle's speed;

alarm means for alerting the driver of the hazardous condition; and

control means for monitoring the pressure signal and the speed signal, creating an alarm point based on the monitored speed signal and a portion of the pressure signal during an initial start-up interval of each session of operation of the driver alarm, determining that the hazardous condition occurs when said alarm point is exceeded, and activating the alarm means.

10. A driver alarm as recited in claim 9, further comprising display means for displaying the status of the control means' assessment of the existence of the hazardous condition.

11. A driver alarm as recited in claim 10, wherein the control means comprises:

- a microcontroller for the monitoring of the pressure signal and speed signal and for the activating of the alarm means;
- a data interface for translating the pressure signal and speed signal into a form usable by the microcontroller, and for sending a display signal to the display means; and
- a power switch.

12. A driver alarm as recited in claim 11, wherein the microcontroller will not determine that the hazardous condition exists until the vehicle's speed exceeds a threshold value.

13. A driver alarm as recited in claim 9, wherein the alarm means is an electroacoustic transducer.

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