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**COUNCIL DIRECTIVE**

**of 17 May 1977**

**on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to motor-vehicle towing-devices**

(77/389/EEC)

(OJ L 145, 13.6.1977, p. 41)

Amended by:

	Official Journal		
	No	page	date
► <b><u>M1</u></b> Commission Directive 96/64/EC of 2 October 1996	L 258	26	11.10.1996

Corrected by:

► **C1** Corrigendum, OJ L 40, 13.2.1998, p. 19 (77/389/EEC)



**COUNCIL DIRECTIVE**  
**of 17 May 1977**  
**on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to**  
**motor-vehicle towing-devices**  
 (77/389/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 100 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament<sup>(1)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee<sup>(2)</sup>,

Whereas the technical requirements which motor vehicles must satisfy pursuant to national laws relate *inter alia* to their towing-devices;

Whereas those requirements differ from one Member State to another; whereas it is therefore necessary that all Member States adopt the same requirements either in addition to or in place of their existing rules, in order, in particular, to allow the EEC type-approval procedure, which was the subject of Council Directive 70/156/EEC of 6 February 1970 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers<sup>(3)</sup>, to be introduced in respect of each type of vehicle;

Whereas approximation of the national laws relating to motor vehicles entails mutual recognition by the Member States of the checks carried out by each of them on the basis of the common requirements,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

*Article 1*

For the purposes of this Directive, 'vehicle' means any motor vehicle intended for use on the road, with or without bodywork, having at least four wheels and a maximum design speed exceeding 25 km/h, ►M1 with the exception of vehicles which run on rails and of agricultural and forestry tractors and all mobile machinery. ◀

*Article 2*

No Member State may refuse to grant EEC type-approval or national type-approval of a vehicle on grounds relating to their towing-devices, if these satisfy the requirements set out in the ►M1 Annex II ◀.

*Article 3*

No Member State may refuse registration or prohibit the sale, entry into service or use of a vehicle on grounds relating to their towing-devices if these satisfy the requirements set out in the ►M1 Annex II ◀ to this Directive.

*Article 4*

Any amendments necessary to adjust the requirements of ►M1 the Annexes ◀ to take account of technical progress shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 13 of Council Directive 70/156/EEC.

(1) OJ No C 76, 7. 4. 1975, p. 37.

(2) OJ No C 248, 29. 10. 1975, p. 24.

(3) OJ No L 42, 23. 2. 1970, p. 1.

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*Article 5*

1. Member States shall put into force the provisions necessary to comply with this Directive within 18 months of its notification and shall immediately inform the Commission thereof.
2. Member States shall ensure that the texts of legislative provisions which they adopt in the area governed by this Directive are communicated to the Commission.

*Article 6*

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.



LIST OF ANNEXES

- Annex I: Administrative provisions for type-approval
  - Appendix 1: Information document
  - Appendix 2: Type-approval certificate
- Annex II: Towing-devices

*ANNEX I***ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS FOR TYPE-APPROVAL**

1. APPLICATION FOR EC TYPE-APPROVAL OF A VEHICLE TYPE
  - 1.1. The application for EC type-approval pursuant to Article 3 (4) of Directive 70/156/EEC of a vehicle type with regard to its towing devices shall be submitted by the manufacturer.
  - 1.2. A model for the information document is given in Appendix 1.
  - 1.3. The following must be submitted to the technical service responsible for conducting the type-approval tests:
    - 1.3.1. a vehicle representative of the type to be approved.
  
2. GRANTING OF EC TYPE-APPROVAL OF A VEHICLE TYPE
  - 2.1. If the relevant requirements are satisfied, EC type-approval pursuant to Article 4 (3) and, if applicable, 4 (4) of Directive 70/156/EEC shall be granted.
  - 2.2. A model for the EC type-approval certificate is given in Appendix 2.
  - 2.3. An approval number in accordance with Annex VII to Directive 70/156/EEC shall be assigned to each type of vehicle approved. The same Member State shall not assign the same number to another type of vehicle.
  
3. MODIFICATIONS OF THE TYPE AND AMENDMENTS TO APPROVALS
  - 3.1. In the case of modifications of the type approved pursuant to this Directive, the provisions of Article 5 of Directive 70/156/EEC shall apply.
  
4. CONFORMITY OF PRODUCTION
  - 4.1. Measures to ensure the conformity of production shall be taken in accordance with the provisions laid down in Article 10 of Directive 70/156/EEC.

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## Appendix 1

## INFORMATION DOCUMENT No .....

PURSUANT TO ANNEX I OF COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 70/156/EEC (\*) RELATING TO EC  
TYPE-APPROVAL OF A VEHICLE WITH RESPECT TO THE TOWING-DEVICES

(Directive 77/389/EEC, as last amended by Directive .../...)

The following information, if applicable, must be supplied in triplicate and include a list of contents. Any drawings must be supplied in appropriate scale and in sufficient detail on size A4 or on a folder of A4 format. Photographs, if any, must show sufficient detail.

If the systems, components or separate technical units have electronic controls, information concerning their performance must be supplied.

- 0. GENERAL
  - 0.1. Make (trade name of manufacturer): .....
  - 0.2. Type and general commercial description(s): .....
  - 0.3. Means of identification of type, if marked on the vehicle (b): .....
  - 0.3.1. Location of that marking: .....
  - 0.4. Category of vehicle (c): .....
  - 0.5. Name and address of manufacturer: .....
  - 0.8. Address(es) of assembly plant(s): .....
- 1. GENERAL CONSTRUCTION CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VEHICLE
  - 1.1. Photographs and/or drawings of a representative vehicle: .....
- 2. MASSES AND DIMENSIONS (e) (in kg and mm)  
(Refer to drawing where applicable)
  - 2.8. Technically permissible maximum laden mass stated by the manufacturer (f) (maximum and minimum): .....
  - 2.11.5. Vehicle is/is not (l) suitable for towing loads (item 1.2 of Annex II to Directive 77/389/EEC)
- 12. MISCELLANEOUS
  - 12.3. Towing device(s)
    - 12.3.1. Front: hook/eye/other (l)
    - 12.3.2. Rear: hook/eye/other/none (l)
    - 12.3.3. Drawing or photograph of the chassis/area of the vehicle body showing the position, construction and mounting of the towing device(s): .....

Date, File

(\*) The item numbers and footnotes used in this Information Document correspond to those set out in Annex I to Directive 70/156/EEC. Items not relevant for the purpose of this Directive are omitted.

(l) Delete where inapplicable.

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## Appendix 2

**MODEL**

(maximum format: A4 (210 × 297 mm))

## EC TYPE-APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

Stamp of administration
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Communication concerning the:

- type-approval <sup>(1)</sup>
- extension of type-approval <sup>(1)</sup>
- refusal of type-approval <sup>(1)</sup>
- withdrawal of type-approval <sup>(1)</sup>

of a type of a vehicle/component/separate technical unit <sup>(1)</sup> with regard to Directive .../.../EEC, as last amended by Directive .../.../EC

Type-approval number: .....

Reason for extension: .....

## SECTION I

- 0.1. Make (trade name of manufacturer): .....
- 0.2. Type and general commercial description(s): .....
- 0.3. Means of identification of type if marked on the vehicle/component/separate technical unit <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup>: ...
- 0.3.1. Location of that marking: .....
- 0.4. Category of vehicle <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(3)</sup>: .....
- 0.5. Name and address of manufacturer: .....
- 0.7. In the case of components and separate technical units, location and method of affixing of the EC approval mark: .....
- 0.8. Address(es) of assembly plant(s): .....

## SECTION II

1. Additional information (where applicable): see Addendum
2. Technical service responsible for carrying out the tests: .....
3. Date of test report: .....
4. Number of test report: .....
5. Remarks (if any): see Addendum
6. Place: .....
7. Date: .....
8. Signature: .....
9. The index to the information package lodged with the approval authority, which may be obtained on request, is attached.

<sup>(1)</sup> Delete where not applicable.<sup>(2)</sup> If the means of identification of type contains characters not relevant to describe the vehicle, component or separate technical unit types covered by this type-approval certificate such characters shall be represented in the documentation by the symbol: "?" (e.g. ABC??123??).<sup>(3)</sup> As defined in Annex II A to Directive 70/156/EEC.

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*Addendum to EC type-approval certificate No .....*  
*concerning the type-approval of a vehicle with regard to Directive 77/389/EEC, as last amended by*  
*Directive .../.../EC*

1. Additional information
- 1.1. Location: .....
- 1.2. Method of attachment: .....
5. Remarks: .....



**▼B***ANNEX ►M1 II ◀***TOWING-DEVICES**

1. **Number**
  - 1.1. All motor vehicles must have a special towing-device fitted at the front, to which a connecting part, such as a towing-bar or tow-rope, may be fitted.
  - 1.2. Vehicles in category M<sub>1</sub> — as defined in ►M1 Annex II A ◀ to Directive 70/156/EEC — except for those vehicles unsuitable for towing loads, must also be fitted with a towing-device at the rear.
  
2. **Stability**
  - 2.1. Each special towing-device fitted to the vehicle must be able to withstand ►C1 a tractive and compressive static force ◀ of at least half the authorized total weight of the vehicle, only without the towed load to which it is fitted.