

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

of 18 July 1989

amending, with a view to fixing certain maximum authorized dimensions for articulated vehicles, Directive 85/3/EEC on the weights, dimensions and certain other technical characteristics of certain road vehicles

(89/461/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 75 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽³⁾,

Whereas, in order to make combined vehicles more productive, manufacturers are proposing a maximum usable volume within the constraints imposed by Directive 85/3/EEC ⁽⁴⁾, as last amended by Directive 89/460/EEC ⁽⁵⁾;

Whereas this increase in the usable volume involves a reduction in the space reserved for the driver and in the space between the tractive unit and the semi-trailer by means of special coupling devices;

Whereas there is a consequent deterioration in the comfort and safety of the driver's working area;

Whereas the current standards should be improved so as to lead to a better balance between the rational and economic use of commercial road vehicles and the requirements of road safety by making tractive units for semi-trailers more interchangeable while ensuring that drivers have enough room,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

Council Directive 85/3/EEC is hereby amended as follows:

1. The following Article is inserted:

'Article 4a

Articulated vehicles put into circulation before 1 January 1991 which do not comply with the new specifications contained in points 1.6 and 4.4 of Annex I shall be

deemed to comply with such specifications for the purposes of Article 3 (1) if they do not exceed the total length of 15,50 metres.'

2. Point 1.1 of Annex I is replaced by the following:

'1.1 <i>Maximum length</i>	
— motor vehicle	12,00 metres
— trailer	12,00 metres
— articulated vehicle	16,50 metres
— road train	18,00 metres
— articulated bus	18,00 metres'

3. The following point is inserted in Annex I:

'1.6. Maximum distance between the axis of the fifth-wheel king pin and the rear of a semi-trailer 12,00 metres'.

4. The following point is inserted in Annex I:

'4.4. *Semi-trailers:*
The distance measured horizontally between the axis of the fifth-wheel king pin and any point at the front of the semi-trailer must not exceed 2,04 metres'.

Article 2

After consulting the Commission, the Member States shall adopt the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive before 1 January 1991.

Member States shall communicate to the Commission the texts of the main provisions of national law which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.

Article 3

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 18 July 1989.

For the Council
The President
R. DUMAS

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 214, 16. 8. 1988, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 47, 27. 2. 1989, p. 157.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 71, 29. 3. 1989, p. 17.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No L 2, 3. 1. 1985, p. 14.

⁽⁵⁾ See page 5 of this Official Journal.