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Conformément au règlement (CEE, Euratom) n° 354/83 du Conseil du 1er février 1983 concernant l'ouverture au public des archives historiques de la Communauté économique européenne et de la Communauté européenne de l'énergie atomique (JO L 43 du 15.2.1983, p. 1), tel que modifié par le règlement (CE, Euratom) n° 1700/2003 du 22 septembre 2003 (JO L 243 du 27.9.2003, p. 1), ce dossier est ouvert au public. Le cas échéant, les documents classifiés présents dans ce dossier ont été déclassifiés conformément à l'article 5 dudit règlement.

In accordance with Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 354/83 of 1 February 1983 concerning the opening to the public of the historical archives of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L 43, 15.2.1983, p. 1), as amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1700/2003 of 22 September 2003 (OJ L 243, 27.9.2003, p. 1), this file is open to the public. Where necessary, classified documents in this file have been declassified in conformity with Article 5 of the aforementioned regulation.

In Übereinstimmung mit der Verordnung (EWG, Euratom) Nr. 354/83 des Rates vom 1. Februar 1983 über die Freigabe der historischen Archive der Europäischen Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft und der Europäischen Atomgemeinschaft (ABl. L 43 vom 15.2.1983, S. 1), geändert durch die Verordnung (EG, Euratom) Nr. 1700/2003 vom 22. September 2003 (ABl. L 243 vom 27.9.2003, S. 1), ist diese Datei der Öffentlichkeit zugänglich. Soweit erforderlich, wurden die Verschlussachen in dieser Datei in Übereinstimmung mit Artikel 5 der genannten Verordnung freigegeben.

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(74) 1231 final

Brussels, 26 July 1974

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

concerning the approximation of the laws of the
Member States relating to statutory plates and inscriptions for
motor vehicles and their trailers, and their
location and method of fixing

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This proposal directive is to form part of the Community type-approval procedure referred to in Council Directive 70/156/EEC of 6 February 1970 (1).

It concerns the technical requirements relative to statutory plates and inscriptions, and to their location and method of fixing.

In particular, it concerns the arrangement of the manufacturer's plate and the identification number of the vehicle. With regard to the manufacturer's plate it fixes the details of what must appear on this plate. Regarding the identification number of the vehicle, it has fixed precisely the number of characters, both for the part by which the vehicle type and variety is identified, and for the part by which a particular vehicle is identified.

The directive is applicable to motor vehicles with at least four wheels, and a maximum design speed exceeding 25 km/h. (article 1).

Article 2 incorporates the requirements for statutory plates and inscriptions, their location and method of fixing, into the EEC type-approval procedure.

It similarly comes within the perspective of the optional harmonisation in the sense that it is provided that the Community requirements set down in the annex of the Directive have the same validity as National requirements. Thus it is not possible for a Member State to refuse national type-approval for a vehicle on the grounds that its equipment and characteristics, laid down by the particular directive, will not conform to the national requirements, when they will conform to the Community requirements.

Since certain Member States do not operate a type-approval system it is necessary to insert some provisions in order to ensure that vehicles complying with the requirements set out in the Directive can be used in these states (article 3).

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(1) O.J. N° 42 of 23 February 1970.

Article 4 contains the procedure for adapting directive to technical progress. This procedure is set out in Article 13 of the Council Directive of 6 February 1970 relating to the type-approval of motor vehicles and trailers.

Article 5 contains two deadlines : before expiry of the first deadline the Member States shall adopt and publish the measures necessary in order to comply with the Directive. The second deadline sets the date on which all of the Member States must simultaneously implement the common rules (article 5, paragr. 1).

Finally, the Commission must be informed in good time of all draft provisions drawn up by the Member States in the field referred to in the Directive in order to enable it to comment thereon (article 5, par. 2).

CONSULTATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Pursuant to the Rome Treaty, article 100, alin. 2, the opinion of these two institutions is required.

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,

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas the technical requirements which motor vehicles must satisfy pursuant to national laws relate inter alia, to their statutory plates and inscriptions, and their location and methods of fixing;

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 requirements, in order, in particular, to allow the EEC type-approval procedure which was the subject of the 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 (1) to be applied in respect of each type of vehicles;

Whereas the national regulations relating to motor vehicles imply national recognition of the inspections carried out by each of them on the basis of common provisions; that such a system in order to function successfully must be applied by all Member States with effect from the same date;

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE :

(1) O.J. N° L 42, 23 February 1970, p. 1.

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Article 1

For the purpose 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 kilometres per hour and its trailers, with the exception of vehicles which run on rails, agricultural tractors and machinery and public works vehicles.

Article 2

No Member State may refuse to grant EEC type-approval or national type-approval of a vehicle on grounds relating to statutory plates and inscriptions and their method of fixing, if they satisfy the requirements set out in the annex.

Article 3

No Member State may refuse or prohibit the sale or registration, entry into service or use of a vehicle on grounds relating to statutory plates and inscriptions and their method of fixing, if they satisfy the requirements set out in the annex.

Article 4

The amendments necessary for adjusting the requirements of the annex so as to take account of technical progress shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 13 of the Council Directive on the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers.

Article 5

1. The Member States shall adopt and publish the provisions necessary to insure compliance with the present directive before 1 January 1976, and inform the Commission immediately.

The provisions of this Directive will apply with effect from 1 October 1976.

2. As soon as this Directive has been notified, the Member States shall take care to inform the Commission, in sufficient time to enable it to submit its comments, of any draft laws, regulations or administrative provisions which they intend to adopt in the field covered by the Directive.

Article 6

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

ANNEX

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. All vehicles shall be provided with the plates and inscriptions described in the following items. These plates and inscriptions are affixed either by the manufacturer or by his authorised representative.

2. MANUFACTURER'S PLATE

- 2.1. A manufacturer's plate the pattern for which is shown in the appendix hereto, must be firmly affixed in a conspicuous and readily accessible position on a part not subject to service replacement. It must show clearly and indelibly the following information in the order listed :

- 2.1.1. Name of manufacturer,
- 2.1.2. EEC type-approval number (1),
- 2.1.3. Vehicle Identification Number,
- 2.1.4. Maximum authorised laden weight of the vehicle,
- 2.1.5. Maximum authorised laden weight for the combination, in the case where a vehicle is used as a tractor vehicle (if applicable train weight),
- 2.1.6. Maximum authorised weight on each axle (and on the fifth wheel king pin if it refers to a semi-trailer), listed in the order from the front to the rear.

- 2.2. The manufacturer may affix additional information below or to the side of the prescribed information, outside a clearly marked rectangle which shall enclose only the information prescribed in items 2.1.2. to 2.1.6. above (see appendix to this annex).

3. VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

The vehicle identification number shall conform to the following requirements :

- 3.1. It shall be marked on the manufacturer's plate, conforming to item 2.1.3. and shall similarly be marked on the chassis, frame, or equivalent structure.

(1) Until an EEC type-approval is granted, the number of the EEC type-approval is replaced by the number of the National type-approval, or alternatively, where no National type-approval exists, by the date of the vehicles' first entry into service.

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- 3.1.1. It shall be composed of 14 characters, constituting two parts : the first, composed of not more than six characters (letters or figures) identifying the type and version of the vehicle; the second, composed of eight characters, of which the first four may be letters or figures and the other four figures only, identifying a particular vehicle.
- 3.1.2. It shall be marked in a single line without spaces or separation, each unused position being filled by a zero in order to obtain the required number of characters.
- 3.2. The identification number which is marked on the chassis, frame, or equivalent structure shall moreover:
 - 3.2.1. Be placed in a readily visible and accessible position by a method such as hammering or stamping, in such a manner to avoid obliteration or deterioration.
 - 3.2.2. Have its position marked on the type-approval certificate.

4. CHARACTERS

- 4.1. Roman letters and Arabic numerals must be used for all the markings provided for in items 2 and 3.
- 4.2. For the marking of the vehicle identification number :
 - 4.2.1. The use of the letters I, O and Q as well as dashes, asterisks, and other signs, is not acceptable.
 - 4.2.2. The characters and figures shall have the following minimum heights :
 - 4.2.2.1. when they are marked on the chassis, frame or equivalent structure of the vehicle - 7,0 mm.
 - 4.2.2.2. when they are marked on the manufacturer's plate - 4,7 mm.

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APPENDIX

TO ITEMS 2.1 and 2.2. - MODEL OF THE MANUFACTURER'S PLATE

	STELLA MOTOR COMPANY e 1485 EBA46G00M47269 26.000 Kg 32.000 Kg 1 - 7.000 Kg 2 -10.500 Kg 3 -10.500 Kg	

The supplementary information (item 2.2.) may be placed to the side of or below the required marks (see rectangles shown with non-continuous lines in the above model).