

Procedure file

Basic information		
SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)	1995/0226(SYN)	Procedure completed
Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive 77/143/EEC)		
Repealed by 2008/0044(COD)		
Subject 3.20.06 Transport regulations, road safety, roadworthiness tests, driving licence		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	TRAN Transport and Tourism		26/09/1995
		NI BELLERÉ Spalato	
	Former committee responsible		
	TRAN Transport and Tourism		26/09/1995
		NI BELLERÉ Spalato	
	Former committee for opinion		
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		16/10/1995
		PSE MURPHY Simon Francis	
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Fisheries	1983	20/12/1996
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	1937	18/06/1996
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	1907	11/03/1996

Key events			
07/12/1994	Additional information		Summary
08/09/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0415	Summary
27/10/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/01/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
24/01/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0010/1996	
28/02/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary

29/02/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0102/1996	Summary
18/04/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0159	Summary
18/06/1996	Council position published	07022/1/1996	Summary
18/07/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
01/10/1996	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
01/10/1996	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0295/1996	
23/10/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
24/10/1996	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T4-0533/1996	Summary
06/12/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0673	
20/12/1996	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
20/12/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/02/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/0226(SYN)
Procedure type	SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
	Repealed by 2008/0044(COD)
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 075
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	TRAN/4/07973

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(1995)0415 OJ C 193 04.07.1996, p. 0005	08/09/1995	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1298/1995 OJ C 039 12.02.1996, p. 0024	22/11/1995	ESC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0010/1996 OJ C 047 19.02.1996, p. 0004	24/01/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T4-0102/1996 OJ C 078 18.03.1996, p. 0011-0026	29/02/1996	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1996)0159 OJ C 193 04.07.1996, p. 0031	18/04/1996	EC	Summary
Council position	07022/1/1996 OJ C 248 26.08.1996, p. 0049	18/06/1996	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1996)1239	15/07/1996	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0295/1996 OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0006	01/10/1996	EP	

Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading	T4-0533/1996 OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0114-0144	24/10/1996	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1996)0673	06/12/1996	EC	
Implementing legislative act	32003L0027 OJ L 090 08.04.2003, p. 0041-0044	03/04/2003	EU	Summary

Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

Final act

[Directive 1996/96](#)
[OJ L 046 17.02.1997, p. 0001](#) Summary

Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive 77/143/EEC)

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Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive 77/143/EEC)

OBJECTIVES: - to test speed limitation devices, the installation and use of which have been compulsory on lorries over 12 tonnes and on buses and coaches over 10 tonnes since 1 January 1994; - to ensure that vehicles are tested and maintained so that they are safe on the road; - to avoid distortions of competition between transporters due to differences in technical tests in the Member States; - to clarify the situation as regards tests on vehicles of historical interest. CONTENT: - the proposal for a Council directive codifies existing directives (Directive 77/143/EEC and its subsequent amendments) and extends their scope; - Member States have the right to set their own testing standards for all aspects of vehicles of historical interest (and not just braking efficiency); - speed limitation devices are included in the list of points which must be tested (the deadlines of the directives replaced have been maintained); - in Annex II, category 4 (taxis and ambulances) have been moved from the left-hand column to the right-hand column (with categories 5 and 6), given that the technical requirements - and hence the points which need to be tested - are the same as for private vehicles.?

Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive 77/143/EEC)

The ESC welcomed the Commission proposal for consolidating, in the interest of clarity, the various Directives relating to roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers. It was also supportive of the further amendments and in particular the proposal for the testing of speed limitation devices in all vehicles with tachographs. This provision should greatly enhance safety on the EU's roads.

Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive 77/143/EEC)

The Commission adopted the report by Mr Spalato BELLERE (It, NI) on the Commission proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles. This proposal also seeks to include the control of speed limitation devices on certain categories of heavy good vehicles among the roadworthiness controls prescribed by EU laws. It replaces a 20 year old Directive and all subsequent amendments in one tests. The rapporteur welcomes the Commission's proposal which considerably will improve the safety of road transport. The Committee slightly amended the proposal. The rapporteur saw his amendments adopted asking for stricter controls of light commercial good vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes. These vehicles should in future be tested within 3 years of the date the vehicle was first used, and thereafter every year. Given the limited capacity of testing centres, the Commission had proposed 4 and 2 years. Roadworthiness tests in all 15 Member States must be carried out by public authorities. Vehicle testing centres may be operated by private bodies, as already is the case in some states, but the independence and quality of the testing shall be ensured by Member State bodies or establishments. Monitoring of test centres may be carried out by means of spot checks.

Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive

The rapporteur, Mr Bellere (NI, I), presented a number of amendments that had been submitted for approval, including those relating to technical inspections on lightweight commercial vehicles and two-wheeled and three-wheeled vehicles. In anticipation of future technological developments in this sector, he did not rule out subsequent changes to the directive in question that could provide for an extension of the inspections to include, for example, airbags and the FIS fire protection system, in order to improve vehicle and road safety at European level. Commissioner Kinnock declared that he fully supported the call for more frequent tests for motor vehicles, but could not accept Amendment No 6, which he thought premature, since it sought to apply the requirements to all Member States, including those which had just begun to apply the tests and the five countries that had still not introduced them; on the other hand, he was prepared to accept Amendments Nos 2, 3, 5 and 8 along with Amendment No 4, which concerned inspections on motorcycles and scooters. Amendment No 7, which related to cold-start carbon monoxide emission checks on petrol engine vehicles, could not be taken over for technical reasons; the same applied to Amendment No 9, which assumed a high level of harmonisation of the roadworthiness tests carried out by the Member States.

Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive 77/143/EEC)

In adopting the report by Mr Spalato BELLERE (NI), the European Parliament approved the Commission proposal calling for stricter tests on motor vehicles with at least four wheels, which are used for the transport of goods by road or the public transport of passengers, and with a weight not exceeding 3.5 tonnes. These vehicles should be checked every three years (instead of four) after the date on which the vehicle was first used and thereafter every year (instead of two years). The roadworthiness tests should be carried out by the state or by public organizations entrusted with this task or by duly authorized private bodies. When establishments designated as vehicle testing centres also operate as motor vehicle repair workshops the Member States shall ensure the objectivity and high quality of vehicle testing. ?

Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive 77/143/EEC)

The amended Commission proposal included three of the seven amendments adopted by Parliament: - adding a new recital to ensure that testing is 'conducted methodically and to a high standard'; - adding a new recital calling on the Commission to report on the practical application of the directive; - providing the obligation for Member States to establish authorization and control systems that ensure an acceptable quality standard for testing centres, particularly where they have the dual role of roadworthiness testing and repair. However, the Commission did not accept Parliament's amendments relating to the following: - making reference to Parliament's resolution on codification and the interinstitutional agreement on the accelerated working method for official codification; - wanting the Commission to study the feasibility of extending roadworthiness tests to two and three-wheeled vehicles; - increasing the minimum frequency of testing of light commercial vehicles and passenger cars from a first test after the vehicles are four years old and thereafter every two years to a first test after they are three years old and then every year thereafter; - introducing a cold-start petrol-emission test for pre-catalyst cars and vans. ?

Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive 77/143/EEC)

The common position of the Council included Parliament's three amendments accepted by the Commission in its amended proposal. There were some divergences between the common position and the Commission proposal: - the option for Member States of excluding fire appliances and vehicles of historic interest manufactured before 1 January 1960 from the scope of the directive; - fixing the date of implementation of the directive as one year after its entry into force (instead of 1 January 1996 as stated previously); - the obligation for Member States to adopt the measures necessary to implement the system of tests laid down in the directive - these measures must be effective, proportionate and dissuasive; - the amendment in Annex II to the draft directive on tachographs; the new text reading 'check, if in doubt, whether, the nominal circumference or size of tyre matches the data given on the tachograph plate'. ?

Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive 77/143/EEC)

The amendments proposed by the European Parliament at first reading and the amendments adopted by the Council were in line with the objectives of the initial proposal. As a result, the Commission supported the common position. ?

Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive 77/143/EEC)

The transport committee has retabled most amendments to Council's common position on roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers not accepted by Ministers. These the House tabled following amendments: * high standard roadworthiness tests with constant monitoring by the Commission of the practical application carried out by the Member States; * rapid extension of these tests to two- and three-wheeled vehicles; * constant checks of both public and private testing centres in order to prevent fraud; * an increase of frequency of checks to 3 years after the date on which the vehicle was first used and every year thereafter for small vans and minibuses with a weight not exceeding 3,5 tonnes. Rapporteur Spalato BELLERE also asked that the possibility for Member States to have tests carried out on historic

vehicles which were manufactured before 1 January 1960 be reinstated. An amendment seeking a ban on the use of vehicles which have not passed the braking system or exhaust gas tests was also reinstated. Lastly, the committee wants the directive to be implemented 6 months after its entry into force instead of one year, so that it could come into force during 1997 ?

Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive 77/143/EEC)

The rapporteur, Mr BELLERE (NI, I), again tabled at first reading the amendments that had been rejected by the Council, including those that sought to incorporate fire brigade and police vehicles into the scope of the Directive, those that related to checks on pre-1960 vehicles of historic interest, those that sought to ban from the road any vehicle that had not passed a braking system and exhaust emissions test, as well as those that were aimed at setting the date of entry into force of the Directive at 1997 instead of 1998. Commissioner Kinnock regretted that he could not accept any of the amendments tabled (whether they were new or had already been tabled at first reading), stating that this was due to technical and practical reasons, for example bringing forward the date of entry into force of the Directive (Amendment No 7).

Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive 77/143/EEC)

In adopting the report by Mr Spalato BELLERE (NI, I), Parliament approved the common position of the Council while calling for more stringent tests for motor vehicles having at least four wheels used for the road carriage of goods or for the carriage of passengers and with a mass not exceeding 3 500 kg. Such vehicles should be tested three years (instead of four years) after the date on which the vehicle was first used, and thereafter every year (instead of every two years). In addition, Member States should ensure that vehicles that do not meet minimum requirements regarding braking systems and emissions are removed from circulation. ?

Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive 77/143/EEC)

OBJECTIVE: to extend the scope of Directive 77/143/EEC to ensure that road traffic within the Community operates under the most favourable circumstances as regards both safety and competitive conditions applying to carriers in the Member States. The directive consolidates Directive 77/143/EEC and the directives that have amended it into a single text. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Directive 96/96/CE on approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers. SUBSTANCE: The directive provides for speed limitation devices for certain categories of heavy goods vehicle and bus as part of Community technical tests, which means extending tachograph tests. The Member States may exclude vehicles belonging to the armed forces, the police and the fire brigade and vehicles of historic interest manufactured before 1 January 1960 from the scope of the directive; they may set their own testing standards for vehicles considered to be of historic interest. Roadworthiness tests will be carried out by the State or by a public body or by duly authorized private bodies. When establishments designated as vehicle testing centres also perform motor vehicle repairs, Member States shall make every effort to ensure the objectivity and high quality of the vehicle testing. The Member States shall adopt the measures necessary to implement the system of tests laid down in the directive. The measures adopted must be effective, proportionate and dissuasive. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 09/03/1997 DEADLINE FOR TRANSPOSITION: 09/03/1998. ?

Roadworthiness tests for vehicles, speed limitation devices (consol. and amend. Directive 77/143/EEC)

COMMUNITY MEASURE : Commission Directive 2003/27/EC on adapting to technical progress Council Directive 96/96/EC as regards the testing of exhaust emissions from motor vehicles. CONTENT : Directive 96/96/EC specifies the tests to be carried out at periodic inspections to check that emissions from both petrol and diesel driven vehicles are still within acceptable limits. A working group of experts from the International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee (CITA), and from other relevant organisations was established by the Commission and met during year 2000. The group examined the options for amending the limits for the emission tests prescribed in Directive 96/96/EC and in Directive 2000/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 June 2000 on the technical roadside inspection of the roadworthiness of commercial vehicles circulating in the Community to determine whether improved environmental benefits could be realised. The Group concluded that the currently prescribed limits are invariably well above what the vehicle is capable of achieving in practice, provided that it is properly maintained: the current limits are therefore not as effective as they could be in facilitating the detection of gross emitters, i.e. vehicles whose exhaust emissions are at least 50 % more than would be expected from a properly maintained vehicle. This Commission Directive aims to amend Annex II to Directive 96/96/EC. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 28 April 2003. TRANSPOSITION : 1 January 2004. ?