

NEWSLETTER ON THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

No. 4

APRIL 1977

ACCIDENT-FREE AGRICULTURE

Commission rules on and proposals for uniform protection against the risk of accidents in agriculture.

Published by the Division for Agricultural Information in collaboration with the Directorate-General for Agriculture of the European Communities Commission – 200, rue de la Loi, 1040 Bruxelles

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INTRODUCTION

For five years now, employers and employees in agriculture have been meeting to discuss the problems of the health and safety of people working in agriculture in two committees set up by the Commission - the Joint Committee on Social Problems of Agricultural Workers and the Advisory Committee on Social Questions Affecting Farmers.

Their studies have revealed that a large number of accidents and diseases in each country are caused by the rapid mechanization of farms and the widespread use of pesticides and insecticides.

Regulations and directives have been adopted or are being studied by the Council, with a view to making agricultural machinery safer and warning users of the special risks inherent in the use of dangerous chemical products. It is essential to put the users and those around them (i.e. nine million working farmers and their families) on their guard against dangers which are not always obvious.

This is why the Commission decided to run a Community Safety in Agriculture Week on 2-8 May 1977, on the general theme of:
'Accident-free agriculture in the European Community', based on close collaboration between the Member States, all those concerned in agriculture and the various Commission departments.

The first Community Week was organized in each of the Member States on 15-22 September 1974, when the emphasis was on the safe use of tractors and mobile agricultural machinery.

The aims of the second Week are two-fold:

1. A vast information campaign on safety at work is being run for the benefit of all those working in agriculture
2. Those parties involved in industrial safety (particularly the authorities, official bodies, builders and manufacturers of agricultural equipment) are expressing their desire to promote and improve on the safety of working conditions in agriculture by taking part in organizing and running the Safety Week.

This time, the general theme of the prevention of accidents and safety at work in agriculture incorporates the concerns and priorities of each of the various countries. Some countries have chosen as their theme the chemicals used in agriculture which involve the users and sometimes the environment in considerable risk of poisoning and even accidents proper.

The risk of accidents to the users of mobile machinery (on the farm) and the movement of agricultural equipment on the road are the basic themes of the second Week.

The Commission feels that the Week is an extremely important event and the newsletter is therefore giving a run-down of current Community directives and Commission proposals on work safety and accident prevention in the agricultural sector.

THE COMMISSION RULES AND PROPOSALS

I. Machinery: The safety of users of agricultural and forestry tractors

Measures taken or being taken here are all part of the general move to eliminate technical barriers to intra-Community trade, pursuant to Article 100 of the Treaty, and intended to lead to a system of Community type-approval for wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors with a speed of between 6 and 25 km per hour. The EEC type-approval procedure, based on Community provisions on the construction and testing of the various parts and characteristics of tractors and the reciprocal recognition of checks, will ensure that these vehicles can move freely throughout the Community. These provisions - which cover the design of the vehicles and certain components considered to be spare parts - ensure a high degree of safety for the users.

Ten directives have so far been adopted by the Council. In addition to the outline directive establishing the administrative procedure for EEC type-approval (OJ L 84 of 28 March 1974), are other directives covering a series of parts and characteristics of tractors, which we shall illustrate below.

Proposals for further directives are now being discussed in the Council or drafted by the Commission. They cover all the other parts or characteristics that are required for full EEC type-approval.

It is worth mentioning proposals which have a direct effect on safety:

- i) sound level at the driver's ear;
- ii) protective devices in the event of overturning (cabs and safety frames);
- iii) driving seat;
- iv) maximum towable weight;
- v) protection of engine parts and projecting parts;
- vi) lighting and light signalling devices (design and installation).

The Community regulations on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors are thus intended to:

- a) ensure free circulation of these tractors within the Community with no technical barriers;
- b) provide greater safety for the users;
- c) bring about greater protection of the environment.

We give below:

- The names, numbers and dates of adoption of the 10 directives approved by the Council, plus the dates of publication in the Official Journal;

- brief comments on the content;
- a list of proposals for directives transmitted to, but not yet adopted by, the Council on other Community parts and characteristics proposed by the Commission in the same sector.

A. DIRECTIVES ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL

(Abbreviated titles, numbers and dates of adoption, plus OJ numbers and dates)

- (1) EEC type-approval (74/150/EEC of 4 March 1974)
- OJ No. L84 of 28 March 1974.
- (2) Maximum speed; load platforms (74/152/EEC of
4 March 1974) - OJ No. L84 of 28 March 1974.
- (3) Maximum permissible laden weight)
)
Space for mounting rear registration) (74/151/EEC
plates) of 4 March 1974)
Tanks for liquid fuel) - OJ No. L84
) of
Ballast weights) - 28 March 1974
)
Audible warning device)
)
Permissible sound levels)
)
Exhaust system (silencer).)
- (4) Rear-view mirrors (74/346/EEC of 25 June 1974)
- OJ No. L191 of 15 July 1974
- (5) Field of vision; wind-screen wipers (74/347/EEC of
25 June 1974) - OJ No. L191 of 15 July 1974
- (6) Steering equipment (75/321/EEC of 20 May 1975)
- OJ No. L147 of 9 June 1975
- (7) Suppression of radio interference (75/322/EEC of
20 May 1975) - OJ No. 147 of 9 June 1975.
- (8) Power connection (75/328/EEC of 20 May 1975)
- OJ No. L147 of 9 June 1975

- (9) Braking devices (76/432/EEC of 6 April 1976)
- OJ No. L122 of 8 May 1976.
- (10) Passenger seats (76/763/EEC of 27 July 1976)
- OJ No. L262 of 27 September 1976.

B. BRIEF COMMENTS ON THE CONTENTS OF DIRECTIVES ADOPTED
BY THE COUNCIL

(1) EEC type-approval

Directive on wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors with two axles and a maximum design speed between 6 and 26 km per hour.

This lays down the Community type-approval procedure for the above-mentioned tractors which can then be registered, sold freely circulated and used in various Member States.

There are three annexes to this directive - an information card containing details to be supplied by the manufacturer when applying for approval of a given type of tractor, an approval card containing a list of that type of tractor's parts or characteristics which have to be checked for conformity with requirements of specific directives or with the maker's specifications and a standards certificate of the kind issued by the maker and attached to all tractors of the approved type.

All checks are made on prototypes by the relevant authority of one of the Member States.

The mutual recognition of the validity of checks carried out by the various Member States rules out the need for repeated control and monitoring in each of those States.

(2) Maximum design speed

Description of the test to measure maximum design speed (length of track, tractor fittings, limits of measurements etc.)

(3) Load platform

Provisions on the position, size and fitting of the load platform.

(4) Maximum permissible laden weight

Maximum permissible laden weight (14t maximum and 10t maximum per axle) and various checks. Whatever the state of loading of the tractor, the weight transmitted to the road by the wheels on the forward axle must not be less than 20% of the weight of that tractor.

(5) Location of the space for mounting and the fixing of the plates

Shape and minimum size of the place where number plates to be fixed (240 mm long by 165 mm). Specifications on the position of the plate in relation to the width of the vehicle, to the longitudinal plan of symmetry, the vertical plane and to the ground.

(6) Tanks for liquid fuel

Manufacturing specifications primarily geared to ensuring high resistance to corrosion and pressure and to preventing fire risks. Installation specifications.

(7) Ballast weights

Specifications for any ballast weights included by the manufacturer in order to meet the other requirements for EEC type-approval (what they are to be made of, display of the maker's name and an indication as to their weight).

(8) Audible warning device

Manufacturing specifications with relevant EEC approval (same specifications as those adopted for audible warning devices on motor vehicles - i.e. on the levels and measurement of sound pressure).

Specifications as to fitting on tractor (acoustic tests with fixing of maximum sound pressure level and which must be at least 93dB (A)).

(9) Permissible sound levels

Limits (<89 dB (A) for tractors with an unladen
(weight exceeding 1.5t
(<85 dB (A) for tractors with an unladen
weight not exceeding 1.5t

Specifications on measuring instruments and the conditions and method of measurement.

(10) Exhaust system (silencer)

Specifications as to manufacture of silencers, primarily provisions on any fibrous absorbant materials used.

(11) Rear-view mirrors

Specifications for rear-view mirrors - which must bear relative EEC approval mark (same specifications as those adopted for rear-view mirrors on motor-vehicles).

Requirements for fitting - number (at least one exterior rear-view mirror on the opposite side to that of road traffic), position, adjustment and field of vision.

(12) Field of vision

Specifications on driver's visibility to front and sides, particularly provisions on checking the field of vision (procedure for determining masking effects).

(13) Windscreen wipers

Specifications as to number (at least 1) and functioning (area covered and speed).

(14) Steering equipment

Specifications for the design, installation and control of steering equipment (in particular, provisions on steering control, steering effort, transmission, steering wheels etc.)

(15) Suppression of radio interference

Specifications as to the range of interference by the engine in given frequency bands and methods of measuring it.

(16) Power connection for lighting and light-signalling devices on tools, machinery or trailers

The tractor has to have a fixed socket with seven contacts in accordance with recommendation 150 R/1724, allowing for a 12-volt supply.

(17) Braking devices

Requirements for the design and fitting of braking devices (service and parking brakes). Braking and performance tests are also included (performance test with brakes cold: service brakes must achieve a minimum mean deceleration, calculated from the stopping distance, of 2.4 m/sec². Fade test: service brakes must produce a residual performance not less than 70% of that prescribed and not less than 60% of the value recorded during the performance test with brakes cold and transmission in neutral). The parking brake devices must be capable of holding a laden tractor stationary on an 18% up or down gradient. On tractors to which the coupling of a tractor is authorized, the parking brake device must be capable of holding the vehicle combination stationary on a 12% up or down gradient. Requirements for spring brakes and for braking by mechanical locking of the brake cylinders are also covered.

(18) Passenger seats

Requirements for the design and installation of passenger seats (size, fitting, resistance, free space above seat).

It is left to each Member State to decide whether such seats are compulsory

C. PROPOSALS AND DIRECTIVES TRANSMITTED BY THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL BUT NOT YET ADOPTED

1. Sound level at driver's ear

2. Protective devices in the event of overturning (cab and safety frame).
3. Installation of lighting and light signalling devices.
4. Anti-pollution measures in respect of diesel engines.
5. Towable weight - protection of engine parts and projecting parts - coupling devices.
6. Driver's seat.

II. Chemicals and plant protection products

(a) Dangerous substances

As early as 1967, the Council adopted a directive on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances¹, the aim being to provide rules for the placing on the market of such products, in the light of the degree of hazard they present (toxicity, corrosivity, flammability etc.).

The annex to the directive contains a list of dangerous substances, including pesticides (pure substances). In the same way as for other dangerous substances, all pesticide packaging must be labelled with the danger symbols and accompanied by advice of safety precautions and reference to any special risks involved, so that people who have to use such products in the course of their work can be protected,

The danger symbols on the packaging labels, the standard formulae for any special risks involved in using dangerous substances and the safety precautions have thus been harmonized for ten years now.

¹Council Directive 67/548/EEC of 27 June 1967 (OJ No. 196 of 16 August 1967).

Our annexes contain:

- i) the danger symbols and indicators of risk;
- ii) a list of the type of special risks attached to dangerous substances and preparations which are widely used in agriculture, primarily in the form of pesticides.

(b) Pesticides

A proposal for a directive on the classification, packaging and labelling of pesticides was submitted to the Council on 31 December 1974 (OJ No. C40 of 20 February 1975). It makes the same provisions on packaging and labelling as the directive referred to under (a).

(c) Fertilizers

In 1975, the Council adopted a directive on the composition, identification, labelling and packaging of fertilizers and, in the same year, the Commission submitted a proposal to the Council for a directive on ammonium nitrate-based fertilizers with a high nitrogen content. Ammonium nitrate is the main component of a whole series of products, some of which are used as fertilizers and others as explosives. The proposal is intended to do away with any risk of explosion by defining the characteristics distinguishing fertilizers from other ammonia-based products used as explosives.

(d) The harmonization of legislation on plant health

On 4 and 5 August 1976, as part of the general programme to harmonize legislation on plant health¹, the Commission presented the Council with two additional proposals on the placing on the market of EEC-authorized plant health products and a ban on the marketing and use of any plant health products containing certain active substances.

¹OJ No. C92 of 6 August 1974

The first proposal¹ aims at establishing conditions for the free movement of plant health products in the Community as a whole and provides for the introduction of optional EEC approval, which would also apply to existing provisions authorizing plant health products. Only those products meeting a series of requirements - as to safety, efficiency and protection of the environment - would be approved.

The second proposal² aims at harmonizing national measures barring and restricting the use of any pharmaceutical products that present a danger to man or the environment.

Stage one covers plant health products containing certain active mercuric and organo-chlorate substances, the use of which tends to be thought undesirable in agriculture. This like the first proposal, is a contribution to Community environmental protection policy³.

As far as animal feed is concerned, the provisions on additives⁴ and undesirable substances and products⁵ were drawn up primarily in the light of the demands of the protection of human and animal health and of the environment and the conditions for the use of authorized products were fixed so as to present no risk whatsoever.

¹OJ No. C92 of 6 August 1974

²OJ No. C200 of 26 August 1976

³OJ No. C112 of 28 December 1973

⁴OJ No. L270 of 14 December 1970

⁵OJ No. L38 of 11 February 1974

(e) Veterinary legislation - proposals to ensure uniform protection of producers and consumers

In the veterinary sector, Community directives on fresh meat¹ and poultrymeat² contain provisions to ensure the protection of the health of all consumers. These directives, and those dealing with intra-Community trade in live bovine animals and swine³, aim to eliminate the possibility of certain serious diseases, infections and ailments, primarily tuberculosis and brucellosis, being transmitted to humans via animals or animal products.

Provisions here involve ante and post mortem inspections of animals for slaughter and an official veterinary surgeon inspecting live animals before any movement. These checks mean that diseased and infected animals and animal products can be properly supervised.

The Commission has also presented the Council with a number of proposals⁴ intended to speed up the eradication of bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis in the Community. If they are adopted and implemented successfully, these measures will cut down the risk of contagion, which is particularly high for people who are in contact with these animals and the products thereof, and protect the population as a whole.

¹OJ No. 121 of 29 July 1964, Directive 64/433/EEC amended

²OJ No. L55 of 8 March 1971, Directive 71/118/EEC amended

³OJ No. 121 of 29 July 1964, Directive 64/432/EEC amended

⁴OJ No. C252 of 26 October 1976

ANNEX INature of the special risks attaching to dangerous substances

- R 1 Explosive when dry
- R 2 Risk of explosion by shock, friction, flame or other sources of ignition.
- R 3 Extreme risk of explosion by shock, friction, flame or other sources of ignition.
- R 4 Forms very sensitive explosive metallic compounds.
- R 5 Heating may cause an explosion.
- R 6 Danger of explosion with or without contact with air.
- R 7 May cause fire.
- R 8 Contact with combustible material may cause fire.
- R 9 May explode when mixed with combustible material.
- R 10 Flammable.
- R 11 Very flammable.
- R 12 Highly flammable.
- R 13 Very flammable liquefied gas.
- R 14 Reacts violently with water.
- R 15 Contact with water liberates very flammable gas.
- R 16 May explode when mixed with oxidising substances.
- R 17 Spontaneously flammable in air.
- R 18 When in use, explosive vapour-air mixture may form.
- R 19 May form explosive peroxides.
- R 20 Inhalation harmful.
- R 21 Skin-contact harmful.
- R 22 Swallowing harmful.
- R 23 Inhalation poisonous.

ANNEX I

- R 24 Skin-contact poisonous.
 - R 25 Swallowing poisonous.
 - R 26 Inhalation highly poisonous.
 - R 27 Skin-contact highly poisonous.
 - R 28 Swallowing highly poisonous.
 - R 29 Contact with water liberates a poisonous gas.
 - R 30 May become very flammable when in use.
 - R 31 Contact with acid liberates a poisonous gas.
 - R 32 Contact with acid liberates a highly poisonous gas.
 - R 33 Danger of cumulative effects.
 - R 34 Causes burns.
 - R 35 Causes severe burns.
 - R 36 Cause irritation of eyes.
 - R 37 Irritating to respiratory system.
 - R 38 Irritating to the skin.
 - R 39 Danger of very serious irreversible effects.
 - R 40 Possibility of irreversible effects.
-

ANNEX IISafety advice concerning dangerous substances

- S 1 Keep locked up.
- S 2 Keep out of reach of children.
- S 3 Store in a cool place.
- S 4 Store away from living quarters.
- S 5 Keep under (appropriate liquid to be specified by the manufacturer)
- S 6 Keep under (inert gas to be specified by the manufacturer)
- S 7 Keep container tightly closed.
- S 8 Keep container in a dry place.
- S 9 Keep container in a well-ventilated place.
- S 10 Keep product wet.
- S 11 Keep air out.
- S 12 Do not keep the container sealed.
- S 13 Keep away from foodstuffs and beverages, including those for animal consumption.
- S 14 Keep away from (incompatible substances to be specified by the manufacturer).
- S 15 Keep away from heat.
- S 16 Keep away from sources of ignition.
Do not smoke.
- S 17 Keep away from combustible material.
- S 18 Handle and open container with care.
- S 20 When using, do not eat or drink.
- S 21 When using, do not smoke.
- S 22 Avoid breathing dust.
- S 23 Avoid breathing gas/vapour/fumes/spray.

ANNEX II

- S 24 Avoid contact with skin.
- S 25 Avoid contact with eyes.
- S 26 In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and consult a specialist.
- S 27 Remove any soiled or splashed garments immediately.
- S 28 After contact with skin, wash immediately with plenty of (appropriate products to be specified by the manufacturer).
- S 29 Do not empty into drains.
- S 30 Never add water to this product.
- S 31 Keep away from explosive materials.
- S 33 Avoid accumulation of static discharges.
- S 34 Avoid shock and friction.
- S 35 Take every precaution when disposing of the product and container.
- S 36 ~~Wear~~ the appropriate protective clothing.
- S 37 Wear the appropriate gloves.
- S 38 Wear a suitable respirator where ventilation is inadequate.
- S 39 Wear a mask to protect eyes/face.
- S 40 Clean ground and contaminated products with(to be specified by the manufacturer).
- S 41 In case of fire and/or explosion avoid breathing fumes.
- S 42 During fumigation/spraying wear an appropriate respirator.
- S 43 In case of fire, use (appropriate equipment to be specified by the manufacturer. If water increases danger, add 'Never use water').
- S 44 If you fell unwell, see a doctor (show him this label if possible).
- S 45 In case of accident or if you feel unwell, see a doctor immediately (show him this label if possible).

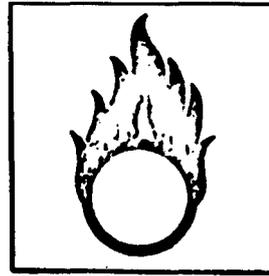
Community danger symbols

E



Explosive

O



Oxidising

F



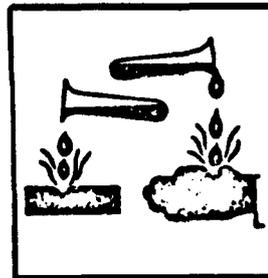
Easily flammable

T



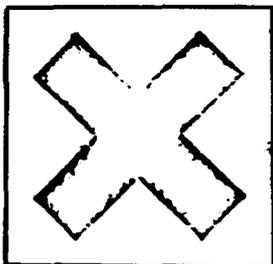
Toxic

C



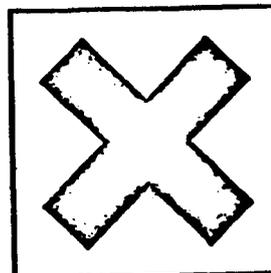
Corrosive

Xn



Harmful

Xi



Irritant