

**Draft Council directive on authorized weights
and dimensions of commercial road vehicles
operating between Member States**

and

**Draft Council resolution on additional technical requirements
applicable to commercial road vehicles
operating between Member States**

(Proposal submitted by the Commission to the Council on 7 September 1962)

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**SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMISSION OF
THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY**

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Draft Council directive on authorized weights and dimensions of commercial road vehicles operating between Member States

The Council of the European Economic Community,

Having regard to the provisions of the Treaty and in particular Article 75 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal of the Commission;

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee;

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament;

Whereas certain discrepancies between the regulations at present governing weights and dimensions of commercial vehicles in the Member States are liable to distort the conditions of competition and be a hindrance to traffic between the Member States;

Whereas the maximum weights and dimensions and certain technical definitions for the various types of commercial vehicles operating between the member countries should be fixed in a uniform manner as part of the common transport policy;

Whereas these limits must be such as to enable commercial vehicles to be used rationally and economically, with due regard for requirements in respect of road maintenance and of safety and reliability in operation;

Whereas it is necessary to allow time for carriers to adapt themselves to the new provisions;

Whereas additional technical requirements which are of importance for road safety and reliability will have to be laid down at a later date;

Has adopted the present directive :

Article 1

From 1 January 1965 commercial road vehicles operating between the territories of Member States shall conform to the following specifications of weight and dimensions :

I — Maximum length

Single vehicle: 12 metres

Articulated vehicle: 15 metres

Vehicle train: 17.20 metres

II — Maximum width

2.50 metres

III — Maximum height

4 metres

IV — Maximum weight

1) *Per axle :*

a) single: 10 metric tons

b) twin: 16 metric tons, provided that the load on the wheels of either axle of the combination does not exceed 10 metric tons

2) *Gross weight :*

a) single vehicle :

— with two axles: 16 metric tons

— with more than two axles: 22 metric tons

b) articulated vehicle: 36 metric tons

c) vehicle train: 38 metric tons.

Article 2

a) A single axle weight shall be defined as the total weight transmitted to the road by all wheels the centres of which can be included between two parallel, transverse, vertical planes 1 metre apart.

b) A twin axle weight shall be defined as the total weight transmitted to road by the wheels of one pair of axles, the distance between their centre-lines being not less than 1 metre but less than 2 metres.

Article 3

The Member States may lay down provisions which depart from those of the present directive in respect of vehicles used for special transport purposes.

Article 4

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, Member States shall authorize commercial vehicles registered before 1 January 1965 to operate their territories until 31 December 1974 even if the vehicles do not conform to the specifications laid down in Article 1.

Article 5

The Member States shall make the necessary statutory and administrative provisions to give effect to the present directive not later than 31 December 1963.

The Member States shall inform the Commission not later than 31 December 1963 of the statutory and administrative provisions they have made to give effect to the present directive.

Uniform additional technical requirements may be laid down not later than 30 June 1963.

Article 6

The present directive is addressed to all Member States.

Draft Council resolution on additional technical requirements applicable to commercial road vehicles operating between Member States

The Council of the European Economic Community,

Whereas Article 5 of the Council directive on weights and dimensions of commercial road vehicles authorized to operate between Member States states that additional technical requirements may subsequently be laid down,

Whereas it may be necessary to lay down in the near future uniform additional technical requirements concerning *inter alia* :

minimum ratios of engine power to gross weight,

minimum ratios of weight on the driving-axle to gross weight,

minimum ratio of the load on the towing vehicle to the load on the trailer,

limits for the path described in cornering, maximum dimensions of body overhangs, agrees to make the appropriate regulations at latest by 30 June 1963; invites the Commission to submit proposals for this purpose before 1 January 1963.