

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(78) 385 final.

Brussels, 20 September 1978

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DIRECTIVE
on the approximation of the laws of Member States relating to the
-- Towing Hooks
-- Reverse
on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(78) 385 final.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

I. GENERAL REMARKS

This proposal for a Directive is to form part of the Community type-approval procedure provided for in Council Directive 74/150/EEC of 4 March 1974 (1).

It concerns the requirements as to towing hooks and to the reverse of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors.

The Commission has decided that tractors must be fitted with a device for the attachment of a towing bar or cable since such a device has proved not only useful but necessary for the removal of vehicles which have broken down on the public highway or in the fields. Where such a device is absent at the front, the towing of tractors is delayed and complicated, and their safety may be impaired since an improvised fitting (on the bumper bar or some other part of the vehicle) can damage the steering mechanism.

The part concerning the reverse is based on the Convention on road traffic (Vienna, 8 November 1968) which provides on all vehicles having a maximum authorized weight over 300 kg.

II. COMMENTS ON THE ARTICLES

The Directive applies to wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors having a maximum design speed of 6-25 km/h as also provided for in the Directive on type approval (Article 1).

Article 2 incorporates in the EEC type-approval procedure the requirements for the towing hook and the reverse.

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(1) O.J. N° L84, 28.3.1974, p.10.

Since certain new Member States at present do not carry out national type approval it is necessary to draft provisions enabling tractors complying with the requirements of the Directive (Article 3) to be used in those States.

Article 7 provides for the adaptation of the Directive to technical progress: the procedure is set out in Article 13 of the Council Directive of 4 March 1974 relating to the type approval of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors.

Article 5 provides that Member States must comply with the Directive within a period of 18 months (Article 5, par. 1).

Finally the Commission must be notified within a reasonable space of time of all draft provisions drawn up by the Member States in the field covered by the Directive, in order to enable the Commission to comment thereon, if necessary (Article 5, par. 2).

III. CONSULTATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Opinion of these two institutions is required under Article 100, al.2

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 with which tractors must comply pursuant to national laws relate, inter alia, to the towing hook and the reverse.

Whereas these 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 rules, in order, in particular, to allow the EEC type-approval procedure which was the subject of the Council Directive 74/150/EEC of 4 March 1974 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors to be applied in respect of each type of tractor (1) ;

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE :

Article 1

1. "Agricultural or forestry tractor" means any motor vehicle, fitted with wheels or caterpillar tracks and having at least two axles, the main function of which lies in its tractive power and which is specially designed to tow, push, carry or power certain tools, machinery or trailers intended for agricultural or forestry use. It may be equipped to carry a load and passengers.

2. This Directive shall apply only to tractors defined in the preceding paragraph which are fitted with pneumatic tyres and which have two axles and a maximum design speed of between 6 and 25 km/h.

(1) O.J. N° L84, 28 March 1974, p.10

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Article 2

No Member State may refuse to grant EEC type-approval or national type-approval of a tractor on grounds relating to the towing hook or the reverse if these satisfy the requirements set out in the Annex hereto.

Article 3

No Member State may refuse the registration or prohibit the sale, entry into service or use of tractors on grounds relating to the towing hook or the reverse if these satisfy the requirements set out in the Annex hereto.

Article 4

The amendments necessary for adapting to technical progress the requirements of the Annex shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 13 of Directive 74/150/EEC.

Article 5

1. Member States shall bring into force the provisions necessary in order to comply with this Directive within 18 months of its notification and shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

2. As soon as this Directive has been notified, the Member States shall ensure that the Commission is informed, in sufficient time for 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

I. TOWING HOOK

I.1 Number

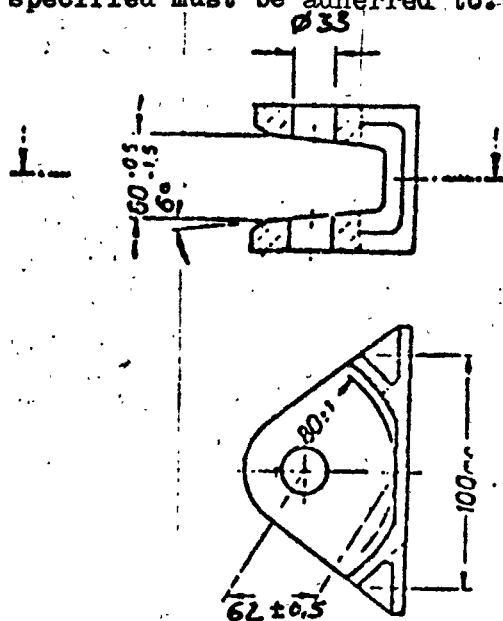
Every tractor shall have a special device to which a connection such as a tow bar or a tow rope can be attached for towing purposes.

I.2 Position

The device shall be fitted to the front of the tractor.

I.3 Design

The device shall be of the slotted jaw type. The functional dimensions specified must be adhered to.



all dimensions in mm

The pin shall have a diameter of $30 + 1.5$ (1) and shall be equipped with a device preventing it from leaving its seating during use. The securing device shall be non-detachable.

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(1) The tolerance should not be regarded as a manufacturing tolerance but as a permissible variation in nominal dimensions for pins of different designs.

The specifications of the materials and dimensions shall be such that the device shall permit the tractor to be towed with a very high safety coefficient.

II. REVERSE

All tractors must be equipped with a device for reversing which can be operated from the driving position.
