

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUTO SAFETY MEASURES PUSHED IN COMMON MARKET

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 16, 1966 -- The EEC Commission has approved a draft directive to harmonize member states' regulations on brakes for certain types of motor vehicles.

The proposal made this week is one of a series of directives to standardize national regulations on automobile construction and accessories for greater safety. Harmonization of national regulations will require EEC car manufacturers to adapt production to a Community-wide code.

Other standardization proposals awaiting Council approval involve turn signals, license plates and holders, and radio static eliminators. Forthcoming directives will include standardization of safety glass, headlights, windshield wipers, and mufflers.

At the present time, national legislation on these and other car manufacture items varies greatly. Auto firms exporting within the Community must produce different qualities and sizes of the same equipment. One German car assembly line produces 94 different kinds of turn signals to conform to regulations in EEC countries.

The Commission proposals would require that member countries pass, within 18 months after Council approval, similar laws concerning the manufacture and assembly of these motor vehicle parts. In addition, similar control standards would be established in the six countries thus enabling each member state to accept parts approved by another. Community automobiles with parts not conforming to the common standards could be forbidden to cross member countries' borders.

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