

Proposal for Amendments to Regulation No. 55

The text reproduced below was prepared by the experts from ECE R55 informal group in order to introduce amendments regarding:

- Requirements on movable ball couplings, increased range of application of remote controls to couplings similar to C50-X and G50-X
- Couplings
- Possible increase of characteristic values of standard couplings
- Addition of further requirements to the mounting of couplings.
- The modifications to the current text of the Regulation are marked in bold for new or strikethrough for deleted characters.

I. Proposal

Annex 5, insert new item

“1.4. Movable ball coupling devices

A movable coupling device shall be designed for positive mechanical engagements in service position.”

Renumber annex 5 old item 1.4. to 1.5 until 1.7. to 1.8

Annex 5 item 12.1, amend to read

12.1 Devices for remote indication and remote control are permitted only on automatic **drawbar couplings and automatic fifth wheel couplings** ~~coupling devices of Classes C50 X and G50 X.~~

Headline TABLE 3, amend to read

“Minimum characteristic values for standard flange type ball couplings”

Headline TABLE 5, amend to read

“Minimum characteristic values for standard drawbar couplings”

Headline TABLE 7, amend to read

“Minimum characteristic values for standard drawbar eyes”

Headline TABLE 9, amend to read

“Minimum characteristic values for Class L toroidal drawbar eyes”

Headline TABLE 13, amend to read

“Minimum characteristic values for Class K hook type couplings

Regulation chapter 6: add new item 6.4. “

6.4. When mounting coupling devices of Classes B, D, E, H, L and S on trailers, a value of 32 tonnes for the maximum mass T of the towing vehicle must be taken into account for D-value calculation. If the D-value of the coupling device is not sufficient for T = 32 tonnes, the resulting restriction on the mass T of the towing vehicle or the mass of the vehicle combination must be stated in the vehicle type-approval certificate of the trailer.

II. Justification

1. Today an increasing number of coupling types (especially ball-couplings, which are movable, retractable, bendable and else are developed due to esthetic requirements). The minimum requirement to this kind of ball coupling devices shall be stated. This is in order to avoid accidents, when a trailer is coupled.

2. Remote indications may help the driver to assure safe coupling procedures.

It is much more safety and innovative to use couplings with remote control and remote indication, in particular if remote indication is integrated in the dashboard.

In the today's version the safety feature of remote control and remote indication is only permitted to C50-X, so that C50-1 until C50-7 and also G50-X, but also class S automatic pin couplings with bolts different from 50mm and the very common automatic 5th wheel coupling with 90 mm pin diameter are excluded. There is no reason to exclude.

3. If every part of a coupling combination fulfills minimum requirement a safe combination is given. Any device being tested against higher characteristic values does still comply with every requirement of the standard device, but with a higher security for the whole coupled combination.

4. indication of general value 32t is missing (indeed the whole chapter is missing!)

Annex 7 of the regulation had been copied from 94/20/EC. It was cancelled the 1 paragraph of this annex

“General requirements...” of the 94/20/EC, because there was just a paragraph in the regulation R55. Most general requirements are given at several places in the ECE R55, but not the requirement on the tractor weight to be taken into account.

This detailed requirements is needed for the approval of vehicles with regard to the fitting as well as for a basic of D-value calculation. The new item is exactly copied from 94/20/EC annex 7 chapter 1.
