

Proposal for draft amendments to ECE Regulations No. 55

A. Proposal

Annex V

Add new paragraph 5.6. to read:

“5.6. The design of the drawbar including the coupling head for use on O1 and O2 centre axle trailers shall be such to prevent the coupling head from digging into the ground in the event of separation of the main coupling.”

B. Justification

Currently, the definition of a "Secondary coupling device" means a chain, wire rope, etc., fitted to a Class B coupling head for a tractive force up to 800kg as defined in paragraph 2.6.2., capable in the event of separation of the main coupling, of preventing the trailer drawbar from touching the ground and providing some residual steering action on the trailer. However, this presents some vehicle manufacturers with a difficulty to install a suitable attachment point on the towing vehicle for the secondary coupling device. Therefore, in order to preserve the safety requirement which was assured by preventing the drawbar from touching the ground could be delivered by this new provision.
