

Transmitted by the expert from the Netherlands

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION No.17

Note: The text reproduced below was prepared by the expert from the Netherlands in order to provide a head restraint height that takes account of recent anthropometric research showing that nowadays people are taller.

A. PROPOSAL

5.6.2.1. Front outboard designated seating positions

The top of a head restraint located in a front outboard designated seating position shall have a height of:

(a) not less than 850 mm in at least one position of head restraint adjustment; and

(b) not less than 750 mm in any position of head restraint adjustment except as provided for in paragraph 5.6.2.3. of this Regulation.

B. JUSTIFICATION

Anthropometric research demonstrates that the present minimum height of 800 mm is insufficient to provide a good biomechanical support for a significant part of the citizens in countries like e.g. United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

For a sufficient minimum head restraint height one has to take account of the erect sitting height, plus the dynamic effects of ramping up and spine straightening.

Between various populations the erect sitting height does not differ as much as the standing height. For the Netherlands a 95th percentile male needs a head restraint height of 850 mm.

An UK Cost Benefit Analysis published by EEVC (www.eevc.org) recommended that an increase of the head restraint to a height of 840 mm is expected to result in the largest benefit minus cost value.
